

Mr Crosland accuses BBC of bias in leadership broadcast

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sion broadcast in the "Panorama" programme on the contest. But the director-general of the BBC disagreed. As nominations closed yesterday Mr Callaghan and Mr Foot remained the most favoured candidates.

'Curran offer 'still stands'

Our Political Staff
As Labour MPs began voting last night for Mr Wilson's successor as Prime Minister and leader of the Labour Party, Mr Crosland, Secretary of State for the Environment and one of the contenders for the leadership of the Labour Party, accused the BBC last night of bias in excluding him and Mr Wedgwood Benn, another candidate, from a televi-

sion broadcast in the "Panorama" programme on the contest. But the director-general of the BBC disagreed. As nominations closed yesterday Mr Callaghan and Mr Foot remained the most favoured candidates.

important programmes. As Mr Crosland was carrying a big report on feeling in the constituency, the time available was adequate for three interviews only, those involving Mr Foot, Mr Jenkins, and Mr Healey.

Mr Crosland, Sir Charles added, had been offered an interview in the "Tonight" programme of the same duration as that in the same programme last week given to Mr Benn. It would also have been of the same duration as the "Panorama" interviews of Mr Foot, Mr Jenkins and Mr Healey. That offer still stood.

He said: "We are trying to be as fair as we can in a complex situation, without putting ourselves in the position of trying to put everyone into one programme in a way which could do justice to none."

been following since the Second World War and he relied on it, not only until the next election, but until the next election and run the Government after that."

He added that he had been a "central figure" in the economic policies of the past two years that had halved the rate of inflation, halved the balance of payments deficit, and cut the number of strikes by three quarters compared with the period of Conservative power.

"We are a Labour party," he said, "we represent working people, and I think our central problem is to persuade working people that work is not something you have to do to earn money. It is something you want to do because it is worth while both for you and the country."

Mr Callaghan sets time limit for majority rule in Rhodesia

By David Wood
Political Editor

For the first time yesterday the Government set a time limit of 18 months to two years for elections establishing majority rule as one of the preconditions for Britain to reenter negotiations on "the actual terms of a constitution for independence".

"Britain would be prepared to play a constructive part in any negotiations in which these preconditions have been accepted, and would be willing to sit down with representatives of all shades of Rhodesian opinions, inside and out. The other three preconditions are: 1 Acceptance of majority rule. 2 Agreement that there will be no independence before majority rule. 3 Negotiations must not be long drawn out."

Mr Callaghan added that there would also need to be assurances that the transition to majority rule and to an independent Rhodesia would not be thwarted and would be orderly. "We should also need," he said, "to ensure that the settlement provides a background in which both communities could live and work to-

gether in an independent Rhodesia." The British Government would be willing to consider financial and other measures to assist that end.

There is no doubt that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is doing all it can to ensure the widest publicity to the four preconditions and the British "safeguards" in Rhodesia in the hope, that, if Mr Smith and his regime will change their stance, public opinion in this way can



Russian visit: Mr Andrei Gromyko (right) the Soviet Foreign Minister, said on arrival in London yesterday that relations between Britain and the Soviet Union "have palpably changed for the better". Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, who met him, replied that it was necessary for

Britain and the Soviet Union to have "an open dialogue". The main topics to be discussed during Mr Gromyko's three-day visit are detente, Southern Africa and economic relations. Mr Gromyko and his wife will visit the Constable exhibition at the Tate Gallery today.

A group representing "prisoners of conscience", wearing striped pyjamas, skull caps and chains, waited near the Soviet Embassy yesterday, to protest at the treatment of Soviet Jews. The demonstrators have announced that they intend to follow Mr Gromyko throughout his visit.

Cuba given hint that US is ready to attack

From Fred Emery
Washington, March 22
The United States is trying to warn Cuban leaders that they risk direct American military action against Cuba itself if their troops in Angola begin fighting in Rhodesia or Namibia (South-West Africa).

That was the separate interpretation of an official circular today of a front-page article in the Washington Star which suggested that American action against Cuba might range from a blockade to all-out invasion.

Reaction against Cuba itself would, the article suggests, involve both the political unpopularity of intervening on Rhodesia's side and the logistic difficulties of moving troops from America to Africa.

Beirut rightists retake strategic hotel

From Paul Martin
Beirut, March 22

After a day of heavy tank, artillery and infantry battles, the rightwing Phalangist forces in Beirut tonight won back control of the Holiday Inn and two other big city-centre hotels, the Phoenix and the St George's.

With the military conflict worsening on all fronts, leftist forces said they feared a new Phalangist push towards the Muslim stronghold of Ain Meisil. The so-called "hotel war" in Beirut, with the 26-storey Holiday Inn being recaptured only 24 hours after its takeover by the leftists, is but a part of the renewed struggle raging in and around the Lebanese capital. Indeed, the bombardment of the Ras Beirut area, in which most of the embassies stand and the remnants of the foreign community live, tonight evoked a protest from western diplomatic missions.

Tube bomb charges expected tomorrow

By Clive Borrell

Two men are expected to be charged tomorrow in connexion with the planting of bombs on London Underground trains last week. Other charges relating to terrorist activities may be preferred against three other men and possibly a woman later this week.

Those being held by the police last night were arrested at the weekend after raids led by officers of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad.

Income tax concession likely to be based on 6% pay rise

David Blake
Opinion in Whitehall seems to be hardening in favour of a pay limit of about 6 per cent for increases in the coming year, coupled with tax concessions of about 3 per cent. The 6 per cent figure, equivalent to a flat-rate rise of about £3.50 on the annual average of £50 a week, would mean the current rate of about 15 per cent on £100 would be reduced to 12 per cent. It would be accompanied by a raising of tax thresholds which would mean that most wage earners would not increase equivalent to per cent without any tax payment.

Budget will therefore probably announce that tax thresholds will be raised by a certain amount on the assumption that the average wage rise will be around 6 per cent. If the pay limit is lower, the Chancellor may well be prepared to give more in tax concessions; if the limit is higher he will certainly give less.

Another adjustment in the tax thresholds seems to have been chosen in preference to a reduction in the standard income-tax rate because it is felt that the two groups who have suffered most harshly from the effect of inflation on taxes are those at the bottom of the tax scale and middle managers in the range where higher rates of tax begin to bite.

Journalists' union dispute grows

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

TUC leaders will tomorrow take a further step towards isolating the Institute of Journalists, the non-affiliated union at the centre of a dispute over a free press and the closed shop.

The General Council of the TUC is almost certain to endorse a minute in a report from its printing industries committee laying down that all unions in the industry shall not take part in meetings involving representatives of the institute.

However, the printing unions pointed out that their stand did not mean that production workers would give automatic support to the institute, but that they were refusing to give information to institute members. It was a much wider matter.

William Tolliday Sculptor and Goldsmith at Garrard

This gifted artist works only in gold, precious stones and beautiful natural minerals to create scenes of fantasy and delight. Each piece is unique; each is fashioned with rare and imaginative craftsmanship.



Libya accused of death plot

President Bourguiba of Tunisia, said Libya of having sent "a number of agents" to his country to assassinate him and Mr Mouri, his Prime Minister.

Science students 'lacking skills'

University degree courses, particularly in science and technology, may have to be lengthened at considerable extra cost because entrants lack the basic skills and information, the University Grants Committee has reported. Its chairman said students lacked the skills in mathematics to use equations.

'Secret payments' to communists

Government officials in communist countries may have received secret payments from big American companies. Documents submitted in an American court by the Securities and Exchange Commission state that about £130,000 was possibly paid by a Philadelphia company to a "Romanian military officer".

Oporto explosion

Another bomb outrage in Oporto has added to the anxiety of the Portuguese Government that the war is an attempt to delay elections to a legislative assembly due on April 23.

Bank chief resigns

Mr Pat Matthews officially resigned from the board of First National Finance Corporation, the secondary banking group of which he was the executive managing director. His departure was expected after a reorganization of the troubled company.

Food firms' offer

Food processors are to offer the Government a plan for profit control in return for the abolition of the Price Code. It is understood the offer will be put to the Food and Drink Industries Council on Friday for confirmation.

Council home sales

A case for selling council houses to tenants in order to allow many poor people access to wealth is set out in a pamphlet by the director of the Child Poverty Action Group.

Two-year tests for rural transport

Government hopes soon to introduce a Bill to authorize various experiments in public transport in the rural areas. Mini-buses, postal vans and car lifts are among the types to be tested for a period of two years in two areas in England and Wales and one in Scotland.

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Leader page, 15	On initiatives in southern Africa, from Mr Eidon Griffiths, MP, and others; on cycling and transport policy, from Dr Ronald Williams
Leading articles: Rhodesia; Libya and Tunisia; Council housing	Pastures, pages 11 and 14
Bernard Levin takes a gloomy view of the Labour leadership stakes; Professor Ivor Gowan on why devolution is finding a cool reception in Wales	Arts, page 9
Paul Overy on Marriage at the National Museum of Wales; Sheridan Morley talks to Bill Gile; Mario Amaya on Kokoschka at the Marlborough Fine Arts Gallery	Diary, page 14
First of a series on what it is like to be a seafarer in London	Sport, pages 10-11
Rugby Union: Peter West calls for some new England selections; Racing: Prospects for French and Irish flat seasons	Business News, pages 17-22
Stock markets: In a quiet opening to the account the FT Index lost 3.0 to 291.3	Financial Editor: Slower tempo at Rolls-Royce Motors; BP relative to Shell; Low & Bonar
Business feature: Roger Vervore on the progress of Britain's nuclear power station using the SGHWR system	

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HOME NEWS

Left-wing case for selling council houses to tenants

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

Encouragement for the sale of council houses to their tenants, usually the prerogative of Conservative politicians, gained left-wing support yesterday with the publication of a pamphlet by Mr Frank Field, director of the Child Poverty Action Group and of the Low Pay Unit.

In it he recalled that Mr Peter Walker, former Secretary of State for the Environment, had put forward the suggestion from the right of British politics. Mr Field argues from a left-wing standpoint and concludes: "There seem to be three immensely important advantages."

"In the first place, it would be a massive redistribution of wealth in our community. Secondly, it would extend the new dimensions of individual freedom to a large number of people: freedom from the petty rules and restrictions imposed by bureaucracy, and also freedom in the ability to move around the country."

"Thirdly, this approach would be a direct attack on the cycle of poverty in that it would for the first time give many poor people the crucial thing they lack—and that is access to wealth."

Mr Field said he believed there was a certain sourness and bitterness about the state of housing in this country, and that the housing movement as we know it had become more aware of the obstacles moving in our way to providing everyone with a decent home. And that also there is a growing sourness on the housing estates themselves as tenants become more and more aware of the extent of the serfdom imposed upon them by their council tenancies.

Rector to fight for his parish

By Our Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Rector of Redmarley, near Gloucester, the Rev Jobo Burley, said yesterday that he wants to fight for his parish, although he has rendered his resignation to his bishop.

Mr Burley was married on Saturday to his former housekeeper, whose previous marriage was dissolved, and the Bishop of Worcester, the Right Rev Robert Woods, invited him to resign.

The rector said yesterday that he would consult his solicitor today to see whether a way could be found for him to get back his living. He has said that when he signed his resignation he was told by the bishop that action would be taken against him if he did not.

The bishop said yesterday: "Mr Burley came to consult me at my request on Friday, March 19, about his proposed marriage due to take place on Saturday, March 20. At one time he was divorced from his husband and whose husband was still living."

"After mutual consideration Mr Burley agreed that he should resign the parish of Redmarley. We mutually concluded that his new marriage was contrary to the regulations of the Church of England and that furthermore it was damaging to the life of the church in Redmarley."

Mr Burley, a widower, said he resigned expecting to be allowed to continue as a clergyman elsewhere. He had been told afterwards by the bishop that his resignation was the end of his career in the church.

An authority on church law said yesterday that there was no automatic penalty for a clergyman marrying a divorcee, and there were no express regulations of the church against it. But an Act of Convocation laid it down as contrary to church policy.

If a bishop wished to remove a parson from his living, he had to submit a complaint to the consistory court alleging that the parson had, through his conduct, lost the good will of his parish. It would be up to the judge of the consistory court to decide whether the complaint was upheld.

Mr Burley has said that he has much support in his parish, including that of the church wardens and the organist.

More accidents to cyclists

Casualties to motor and pedal cyclists rose sharply last summer, figures published yesterday by the Department of the Environment show. But total casualties in road accidents fell by 3 per cent.

During the July-September quarter the number of motor cyclists killed and injured rose by 25 per cent compared with that period in 1974, and the mileage they travelled rose by 28 per cent. The number of pedal cyclists killed and injured rose by 23 per cent and their mileage rose by 13 per cent.

Easter rail closures

Charing Cross and Cannon Street British Rail stations, in London, will be closed during Easter for work on new track and signalling.

Campaign to encourage renovation of property

By John Young
Planning Reporter

The Government yesterday launched a campaign to encourage the renovation and modernization of older houses in private ownership.

The latest figures show a sharp drop in the number of general improvement areas declared by local authorities. Such areas were first defined by the Housing Act, 1969, and qualify for extensive grants, backed by Exchequer subsidies, the purpose being to give a "facelift" to whole districts and not just individual houses.

Between 1969 and December, 1974 when the latest Housing Act came into force, 909 areas containing 276,069 dwellings were declared in England and Wales; that is an average of more than 50,000 dwellings a year. Since then only 119 areas containing 31,101 dwellings have been notified in the Department of the Environment, and fewer than half of those have been declared.

Part of the explanation may be the emphasis given in the 1974 Act to a new category of housing action areas, with the intention of concentrating resources on the most deprived and run-down districts.

Other possible factors are the ending of the 75 per cent grants formerly payable to assisted regions, and reluctance by some councils to assist owner-occupiers and private landlords when their own municipalization and improvement programmes have been drastically cut.

A film, *Not So Much a Facelift*, is available on free loan from the Department of the Environment, Thames House South, Millbank, London SW1P 4QH.

Thalidomide handed in

Thirty thalidomide tablets have been taken to a West Sussex chemist on the first day of a country campaign for handing in old medicines. The drug, which can cause a baby to be born deformed, was 15 years old.

Ulster courts 'abused by the security forces'

By Our Religious Affairs Correspondent

Mr Jonathan Taylor, a solicitor, alleged at Belfast Magistrates' Court yesterday that courts in Northern Ireland were being abused by the security forces for political purposes. He said the public were being duped into believing that the security forces were solving murder cases.

Appearing for the defence of two men on a murder charge, Mr Taylor said: "I am satisfied that evidence available to the police does not justify this charge."

He said that so, it would appear to be yet another of the regrettably large number of cases in which the police initially charged an accused with murder, but eventually withdrew the charge or reduced it to a lesser one.

He went on to make the strongest possible protest against the practice. He condemned what he said was the complicity of the Director of Public Prosecutions, who made it impossible for those accused to obtain bail and deprived them, perhaps wrongfully, of their liberty.

A solicitor for the Director of Public Prosecutions said he could not comment on the allegations.

The police said: "We do not just charge people with murder."

Office staff tied up as IRA plants bombs in Belfast

Firemen fought a fierce blaze yesterday after a bomb explosion at a disused hall in the centre of Belfast. The area was cleared after a telephone warning that four bombs had been planted in the Clibchester Street Plaza.

Two armed men planted the bombs after entering the hall-room through offices at the rear. Staff in the offices were tied up and locked in a lavatory.

The Belfast Brigade of the Provisional IRA later admitted responsibility for the attack, saying that the premises had been bought by the Ministry of Defence for use as a headquarters. The Army described that assertion as "utter nonsense."

Shoppers fled when a bomb was thrown into a shopping centre in Andersonstown, west Belfast.

Earlier deal by Bewbush agents is queried

By Diana Geddes

Weller Eggar, the estate agents whose branch in Horsham, West Sussex, was involved in the £7m Bewbush land deal, have been asked for an explanation of another deal carried out by the branch, in which a profit of more than three quarters was made within a few months.

Solicitors acting for Mr David Jackson, the former owner of the 300-acre Tedfold stud farm, near Horsham, have written to Weller Eggar asking them to look into the sale of the farm in July, 1972, for £235,000 to Broadland Properties of Scarborough, and its resale before the end of the year for £420,000 to Mr Guy Harwood a racehorse breeder and trainer.

The sale and resale were conducted by Mr Derek Ritchie, a former partner of the Horsham branch. It was Mr Ritchie who, with Mr Christopher Smith, also a former partner, carried out the sale of the 617-acre Bewbush estate, near Crawley, West Sussex, in October, 1972, for £2.25m to Kestrel Ltd, and resold half of it four months later to Crawley council for £7m.

Kestrel had been formed to complete that deal by Broadland Properties, whose chairman and managing director is Mr John Guthrie, and the Reed Pension Fund, which was then headed by Sir Don Ryder, now Lord Ryder, of Eason Hastings, chairman of the National Landlord Board.

Under an agreement with Lord Ryder and Mr Guthrie, Mr Christopher Smith and Mr Ritchie each received £150,000 of the £3.75m profit. A proportion of their personal shares, which was later paid to the other partners of Weller Eggar, was handed by Weller Eggar last month to Mr Lionel Brooks, the original owner of the Bewbush estate.

The commercial branch of Sussex police has been investigating land deals in the Crawley area in 1972 and 1973 involving the Horsham branch of Weller Eggar. A report has been sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions. The investigations included one of the Tedfold stud farm deal.

Mr Smith and Mr Ritchie were arrested and questioned by Sussex police last month, but were released on police bail without being charged, on condition that they return to Crawley police station on specified dates this month. That condition was lifted 12 days ago, pending a decision by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Bill to legalize experiments in rural transport

The Government hopes to introduce soon a short Bill to enable experiments to be made in providing public transport in thinly populated rural areas.

Although many tests can be carried out under existing legislation, some parts of the studies, especially those which involve a relaxation of licensing laws, will require new legislation. Some experiments may start before the law has been modified.

The Department of the Environment is in charge of the experiments, which will involve two areas in England, one in Wales and one in Scotland. The aim is to take an area roughly the size of a district council and examine

different facets of the same general problem. A steering committee, probably under a minister, will oversee the four experiments. Each area will have a working group. The groups, like the steering committee, will be made up of widely representative interests.

Councils which face the task of providing public transport in rural areas are competing to be included, but the four experimental areas will not be selected until the meeting of the steering committee, which is due soon.

Each experiment is expected to run for at least two years and will explore the various uses of mini-buses, the greater

use of the private car in giving regular lifts to passengers who contribute to costs, the use of school buses for face-paying adults, "the postal bus" and other possibilities.

Many isolated experiments are taking place on those lines. In Norfolk, for example, housewives are running and driving a mini-bus provided and serviced by Eastern Counties Buses, part of the National Bus Company. The DOE experiments, it is hoped, will look at the suitability of all those isolated innovations and others, and suggest those most suitable for particular conditions.

The proposed Bill and the experiments reflect wide con-

cern about the provision of public transport for relatively few people without cars living and working in rural areas.

As car ownership rises, the number of bus passengers on the rural routes supported is falling, still further. That increases the subsidy needed to keep services running.

Those often affected are older people, schoolchildren and housewives. In the last case a household may have a car, but the husband needs it for his journey to work. That leaves the wife with a difficulty in getting to shops, clinics, etc.

The short Bill proposals come at a time when a comprehensive government review of transport policy is in

and when county approaches are being created costs of rural transport review thought to lay great stress on the wider use of both in the country and in the cities.

Any permanent changes are felt to be after the four experiments are covered by legislation. The initial consultation of that review is any time after Budget April 6. It is described as most comprehensive transport policy ever in



Men of the West German 272 Airborne Battalion receiving British parachutists' wings yesterday at Normandy Barracks, Aldershot. They have been in Britain as guests of the Parachute Regiment.

Mecca man in bid to save trust

By a Staff Reporter

Outward Bound, the adventure training organization, has appointed Mr Eric Morley, the impresario, as managing director in an attempt to ease its financial difficulties. Mr Morley, chairman and chief executive of Mecca Ltd, has been given wide powers to reorganize Outward Bound within the terms of its educational trust deeds.

The appointment comes after the disclosure that if present trends continued the Outward Bound Trust would have a deficit of £140,000 this year. Bookings for the main course are expected to drop from last year's figure of 3,000 to 2,000 by the end of this year.

The trust said yesterday that increasing costs and the squeeze on industry's cash flow had caused a big drop in the number of trainees from industry for its courses, which are designed to achieve self-discovery through challenging activities on the sea, the mountains and rivers.

Mr Morley, who has raised about £250,000 for the organization in the past four years, said that his first task would be to save its Moray establishment, near Elgin. He is putting in £12,500 of his own money towards the £50,000 needed, and is looking for a Scottish businessman to lend similar support.

Opponents rally over dock-work measure

By Tim Jones
Labour Staff

Labour members of the Commons committee considering the Dock Work Regulation Bill can expect further strong opposition today when they discuss amendments to the controversial extension of the dock labour scheme.

Opponents of the scheme say that it guarantees dockers a job for life with pay, irrespective of whether they do work for them. Employers maintain that there are too many dockers for the work available.

The temperature in the committee has been raised by the release of a map showing the extent of the corridor, in which all work involving imports and exports may be classified as dock work.

In broad terms, the Bill would mean the classification

of all cargo handling within five miles of a waterfront as dock work. That development has sent a ripple of apprehension through the Confederation of British Industry and caused a wave of protectionism among trade unions.

Much of the corridor shown in the map is clearly impractical even to the most militant dockers. For example, it extends beyond Blaenau Ffestiniog, in North Wales, which is some 800ft above sea level and never likely to accommodate a barge, much less a container ship.

It does, however, show areas that could be open to dispute. Mr Kenneth Baker, Conservative MP for City of Westminster, St Marylebone, said: "The scope for inter-union rivalry will be enormous. This is a lunatic way of dealing with industrial change."

Wedding eve dismissal claim

A woman who was dismissed on the eve of her wedding because she was marrying a colleague claimed yesterday that the action was unfair under the Sex Discrimination Act.

A case brought by Mrs Jeannette McLean against the Paris Travel Service Ltd, of Bridge House, Ware, Hertfordshire, is thought to be the first of its kind under the new Act.

Mrs McLean, of Holford

Green, Huddersfield, Hertfordshire, said she was dismissed from her job as a reservations clerk.

Mr John McLean, her husband, former assistant manager of Paris Travel, told the Industrial Tribunal in London that when they told Mrs Hazel Hoffman, the manager, a week before the ceremony that they were going to marry, she said his wife would be required to leave.

Union leaders' farewell tribute to Mr Wilson

By Our Labour Editor

Trade union leaders yesterday bade Mr Wilson a fulsome farewell at the last meeting of the Labour Party-TUC Liaison Committee he will attend as Prime Minister.

Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union and architect of the £6 incomes policy, was at the forefront in paying tribute to the party leader's political skills and long service. Mr Wilson said that Government's success had been founded on partnership with the unions, and he hoped that would continue.

The tributes were heard by three contenders in the race to No 10, Mr Healey, Mr Foot and Mr Benn. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is likely to have a serious contest, in his view that the Government can pursue its economic strategy only with the trade unions' agreement.

Other senior politicians present were Mr Williams, Mr Short, and from Labour's national executive Mrs Castle, Mr Mikardo, Mr Tom Bradley and the party's general secretary, Mr Ronald Hayward.

Unions were represented by Mr David Bessant, general secretary of the General and Municipal Workers Union, Lord Allen of Fallowfield, general secretary of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, Mr Jones, Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC,

and his deputy, Mr Willis, and Mr Dainoff, economic secretary to Civil servants praise service unions, who felt themselves to be the backbone of the irascible and the irascible responded with glee when Mr Foot, Secretary for Employment to their defence (on Staff writes).

A message to his wife, Mrs Wilson, who will have to press attacks on the Civil Service, was also sent. Mr Foot said that who visited their office appreciate the "d commitment and sense of duty that you show without all these go could not have rise challenges of the years."

He hoped recent a the Civil Service a member to be "proper contempt" Mr Leslie Moody, general secretary of Service Union, said: "The record as fairly as as I have heard it. The only con of cuts could be an service."

Mr William Kendall, secretary of the C Public Services As said: "I welcome a belated expression of for the Civil Service government minister."

Labour MPs open fund for Clay Cross 10

By Our Political Staff

The Tribune group of left-wing Labour MPs started a fund yesterday to collect £2,229 to meet the surcharge levied on 10 councillors from the Clay Cross, Derbyshire, by the district authority.

The court ruled on February 24 that the councillors, the second group to run into trouble with the law over council spending and charges, must pay the surcharge.

Mr Arthur Latham, chairman of the group, said the money had to be paid in two weeks. At the Tribune group meeting in the Commons the 20 or so MPs present started off the fund with contributions totalling £125.

Mrs Maureen Colquhoun, the group's treasurer, will be seeking money from other Labour MPs, including those outside the group. The matter has also been raised with Mr Ronald Hayward, the Labour Party's general secretary.

The councillors served for only 29 days, but they refused to discontinue the policy of their predecessors in making sundry payments to council workmen and in paying increased wages to the wardens of group homes for old people.

Army 'sought reimbursement from families'

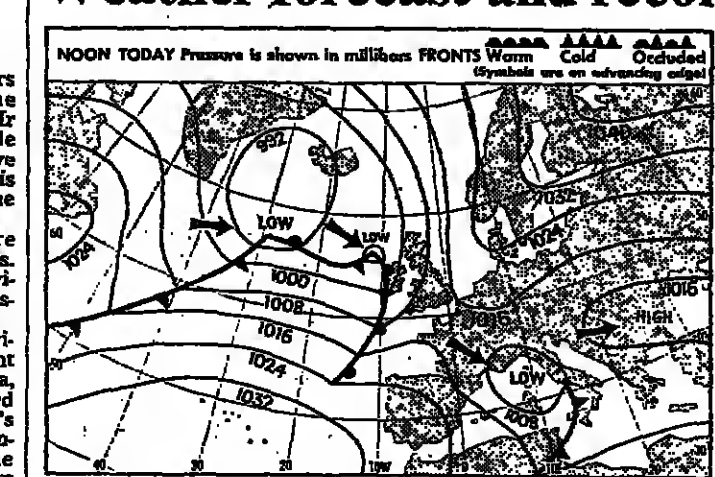
Funeral costs for 10 soldiers and travelling for their relatives who the Inquest were paid Army and no reimbursement was sought from the Ministry of Defence.

It was replying to a Sunday by two MP Army wanted £2,700 £17,000 public appeal relatives of the Scottish and Army Reserve men who died in an accident in North last year.

The money was to Army's expenses. In a statement, he said it had met the funeral and reimbursement of £4 with the cost of fare the request.

"There have been whatever of any demand payment of those cost. In addition, the unit assisted families various other expenses temporary grants for pose from money specifically for the widows' families died, being destined for a trust."

Weather forecast and recordings



Sun rises: 6.56 am Sun sets: 7.19 pm
Moon rises: 3.39 am Moon sets: 12.2 pm

New Moon: March 30.
Lighting up: 7.49 pm to 6.24 am.
High water: London Bridge, 8.0 am, 6.4m (20.9ft); 8.24 pm, 6.0m (19.8ft).
Avonmouth, 12.54 am, 10.7m (35.2ft); 1.25 pm, 10.2m (33.4ft).
Dover, 5.15 am, 5.6m (18.5ft); 5.56 pm, 5.4m (17.8ft).
Hull, 12.4 am, 6.3m (20.8ft); 12.26 pm, 6.0m (19.6ft).
Liverpool, 5.2 am, 7.3m (23.9ft); 6.4 pm, 7.5m (24.5ft).

A depression over France will move slowly E and a ridge of high pressure will persist from Scandinavia to N England.
Area forecasts:
London, East Angles, E England: Mainly dry and bright; a few showers, chiefly near coasts; frost early and late; wind E, moderate or fresh; max temp 6°C (43°F).

Middlesex, Wales, NW and central N England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland and Glasgow: Rather cloudy at first but mainly dry, brighter later; frost early and late; wind S, light or moderate; max temp 5°C (41°F).

Channel Islands: Cloudy, some rain or sleet at first, brighter later; wind NE, fresh; max temp 5°C (41°F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen: Rather cloudy at first but mainly dry, brighter later; frost early and late; wind S, moderate; max temp 5°C (41°F).

Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney and Shetland: Rather cloudy at first but mainly dry, brighter later; frost early and late; wind S, moderate; max temp 5°C (41°F).

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sl, sleet; sn, snow.



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High water: London Bridge, 8.0 am, 6.4m (20.9ft); 8.24 pm, 6.0m (19.8ft).
Avonmouth, 12.54 am, 10.7m (35.2ft); 1.25 pm, 10.2m (33.4ft).
Dover, 5.15 am, 5.6m (18.5ft); 5.56 pm, 5.4m (17.8ft).
Hull, 12.4 am, 6.3m (20.8ft); 12.26 pm, 6.0m (19.6ft).
Liverpool, 5.2 am, 7.3m (23.9ft); 6.4 pm, 7.5m (24.5ft).

A depression over France will move slowly E and a ridge of high pressure will persist from Scandinavia to N England.
Area forecasts:
London, East Angles, E England: Mainly dry and bright; a few showers, chiefly near coasts; frost early and late; wind E, moderate or fresh; max temp 6°C (43°F).

Middlesex, Wales, NW and central N England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland and Glasgow: Rather cloudy at first but mainly dry, brighter later; frost early and late; wind S, light or moderate; max temp 5°C (41°F).

Channel Islands: Cloudy, some rain or sleet at first, brighter later; wind NE, fresh; max temp 5°C (41°F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen: Rather cloudy at first but mainly dry, brighter later; frost early and late; wind S, moderate; max temp 5°C (41°F).

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sl, sleet; sn, snow.

IS

Way to

ADVERTISER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

We'll take more care of you

No. 9

British airways ANNOUNCE

Tuesday, March 23, 1976



The airline's latest wide-bodied jet will fly to the Gulf and India

TRISTAR SPREADS ITS WINGS WIDE

BRITISH AIRWAYS is to introduce its latest wide-bodied airliner, the TriStar, on to the routes from London to the Gulf from early April and to India from June. It will be the first time this popular new aircraft has been operated by the airline outside Europe.

The British Airways TriStars, with 38 first class and 204 economy class seats, will introduce a very high standard of comfort.

March route report

GERMANY



Opportunities galore!

WITH a population of 62 million and the third highest per capita income in the world, the Federal Republic of Germany offers a prime market for British businessmen.

And British Airways services are designed to get executives direct to the nine key German business centres.

A spokesman for British Airways said: "Germany offers exciting opportunities for British exporters. The German economy is expected to show a five per cent growth in gross domestic product in 1976 and the Bundesbank predicts a four per cent increase in money supply."

"The very high savings ratio of the German people—fifteen per cent of disposable income—suggests a pent-up consumer demand."

Services

British Airways scheduled services from London are all at least daily. Many have full first-class facilities on board.

From April 1, British Airways flights to Germany will be:

FRANKFURT: Three services daily from London at 0935, 1235, 1635.

HAMBURG: Two services daily from London at 0900 and 1645. (One on Sunday at 1645).

BERLIN: Three services daily from London at 0845, 1545 and 1825. One daily from Manchester five times a week from Glasgow.

DUSSELDORF: Three services daily from London at 1350, 1725 and 1825. One daily from Manchester. Five a week from both Glasgow and Birmingham.

COLOGNE: Daily from London at 1545.

STUTTGART: Daily from London at 1530.

MUNICH: Daily from London at 1030.

KREMLIN: Daily from London at 1550.

HANOVER: Daily from London at 1550.

Special inclusive packages have been arranged for all the major trade fairs and exhibitions in Germany.

And in addition, spouse fares, for the businessman who wants to take his wife with him, can be combined with reduced-price accommodation at British Airways Associate Hotels: the Munich Plaza and the Rheinstein Penta in Düsseldorf.

The easy way to Ireland

THE GOING is now easier to the Republic of Ireland. British Airways offers the first flight of the day to Dublin, Shannon and Cork.

From April 1, British Airways will move the departure time of its flight to Shannon to 11.10, and this will give holidaymakers and other travellers more time to reach their destinations.

The airline is offering five flights each day to Dublin from London, up to ten flights weekly to Shannon, and a daily frequency to Cork.

British Airways, in fact, serves Dublin from eight different points in England and Wales.

To match this range of services, a wide range of fares are being offered to the Republic this year.

"Family Fares" and "All from businessmen to those visiting their friends and relatives."

The airline is offering five flights each day to Dublin from London, up to ten flights weekly to Shannon, and a daily frequency to Cork.

British Airways, in fact, serves Dublin from eight different points in England and Wales.

The interiors of the TriStars being used on these routes are being completely refurbished. The number of seats in the economy section is being reduced by almost a third and they will be arranged only eight abreast, which means no passenger will ever be more than one seat away from an aisle.

The number of first-class seats has been almost doubled, but naturally the cabin is being increased in size to accommodate these comfortably.

To cater for the needs of the long-haul passenger, other modifications are being made to the aircraft. Seats in both sections will be the same as those on the British Airways fleet of 747s. Additional wardrobes have been added, while the galley units have been designed to maintain a high standard of bar service and catering.

Research

TriStars will be introduced progressively, taking over from VC10s, throughout April, May and June. From June 7 there will be a TriStar departure from London's Heathrow Airport to points in the Gulf each morning of the week at the convenient time of 0950.

The new aircraft will operate from April 2, initially, to Kuwait, Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Dhahran will be served from May 12, and from June 1 the service will go on to Bombay four times a week. Dubai will be served on a daily basis. Dhahran will have four non-stop services and Kuwait three.

Research shows that businessmen go to the Gulf for three main reasons:

- To search for new business — often involving visits to a number of states.
- To service existing contracts — with repeat travel often being necessary.
- To take up appointments, later involving travel home on leave, and visits from family and friends.

The introduction of the 242-seat British Airways TriStar will provide much needed extra capacity and make it much easier for businessmen to obtain reservations.

The Cairo express

IMPROVED schedules between London and Cairo are announced by British Airways for this summer.

Services will leave Heathrow non-stop for Cairo at 0950, arriving at 1610 local time — three days each week, rising to four in July, August and September.

One other service will leave London on Tuesdays at 2230, for an over-night flight to Cairo then going on to Ethiopia. The flights will be operated by the rear-engine VC-10 and will have first-class facilities.

A grand Grand Duchy

INCLUSIVE holidays to Luxembourg — one of the few remaining "undiscovered" countries of Europe — are being offered this year by British Airways, in association with Luxair.

Holidays of various lengths can be arranged, either in the capital or in the smaller towns and villages in the magnificent countryside. Brochures are available at travel agents or British Airways shops, and prices range from £59 for two nights, to £171 for 14 nights — including air travel from Heathrow by scheduled service, hotel accommodation and, in some cases, a hire car.



Moving passenger walkways at Charles de Gaulle airport

Air Bridge to Paris

A MAJOR breakthrough in speeding up travel between London and Paris will be made when the Paris Air Bridge opens next month.

From April 1, all British Airways and Air France flights between the United Kingdom and the French capital will go to the new Charles de Gaulle Airport.

Coupled with a 30-minute Metro link to the Gare du Nord which opens on May 31, this will reduce total city centre to city centre time.

Trains will depart every 15 minutes and the journey time will be half-an-hour. Passengers will enjoy a free bus service from the airport terminal to the Metro station.

Frequency

The concentration on one airport allows the two airlines to offer up to 15 return flights from London. That means a flight virtually every half-hour at peak times.

British Airways will operate six of these flights from Heathrow, four with TriStar. The TriStar flights depart at 0900, 1000, 1500 and 1700. There will also be regular services from provincial airports.

The Paris Air Bridge will also include flights operated by Air France's A300B Airbus.

"This move represents the best thing to happen to Paris services for many years," said a British Airways spokesman.

"The high frequency service with wide-bodied aircraft, rapid ground transportation and the superior facilities at Charles de Gaulle will all contribute to improve what is one of the busiest air routes in the world."

Summer

British Airways is increasing their flights from Heathrow to Marseille this summer from three to four each week. The new flight will leave London on Mondays at 1430, arriving at Marseille at 1715. It will be operated by Trident aircraft.

British Airways will also improve its service between Brussels and London this year by reintroducing the popular return flight late in the afternoon on three days a week. The new service should prove popular with returning businessmen as it is timed to leave at 1720.

Export awards for five small firms

MORE than 150 companies — more than twice last year's total — competed for this year's export awards for small manufacturers.

To qualify for one of the five awards, companies had to have a staff of under 200. Their exports during 1974 had to exceed £50,000 and in 1975 £100,000.

The winners were chosen by a panel of representatives from the three sponsoring organisations — British Airways, the British Overseas Trade Board, and the Association of British Chambers of Commerce.

For them there are trophies and luxury holidays in Kenya and the Seychelles for a nominated employee and wife or husband.

The winners are: Arthur F. Organ Packaging Machine Co. Ltd., Redditch, Worcs; Concargo Ltd., Weston-super-Mare; Mechema Ltd., London, W1; Jet-Lube Lubricants Ltd., Maidenhead; and Crewe Chemicals Ltd., Sandbach, Cheshire.

Tony Newsome, director general of the ABCC, said: "It is clear that a large number of our small companies have notched up world-beating performances in the past year."

Victory on U.S. routes

Announce Reporter

BRITISH AIRWAYS flew more passengers from Britain to the USA than any other airline last summer. And indeed on scheduled services from the United Kingdom to the United States British Airways carried a third more passengers than any competitor.

The airline is so successful on the North Atlantic because it has more services out of the UK than any other airline and serves ten key cities — Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Montreal, and Toronto.

These cities can be reached by direct flights from London's Heathrow Airport and, in addition, there are direct services to New York, Montreal and Toronto from Glasgow and Manchester.

Suit

There are fares to suit every traveller to North America.

• First-class and economy fares are primarily for those who fly on business.

• Foundstretcher low fares for the leisure market. Shown below are return fares from London to New York for May to June but there are similar

fare categories on all scheduled flights: 22 to 45 day advance purchase excursion (APEX) from £137. 22 to 45 day excursion from £189. 14 to 21 day excursion from £237.

These fares are at present subject to Government approval.

There are also Advance Booking Charter flights on British Airways by O.A.T. available to New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Toronto. Prices this summer start at £116

Start

For quality inclusive holidays, British Airways Sovereign and Speedbird holidays start at £180 for two weeks.

There are three tremendous attractions this year in North America. They are:

- The Bicentennial. The United States will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of its independence, from coast to coast. And there will be a great welcome for the British.
- The Olympic Games to Montreal. It is likely, once again, to be one of the greatest shows on earth.
- The expected upswing in the North American economy. This must bring big opportunities to British exporters.

For reservations and further details, see your local travel agent or British Airways shop

HOME NEWS

Science degree courses may need lengthening as entrants lack basic skills, committee says

By Tim Devlin

Education Correspondent

Some students are entering universities without the basic skills and information needed to pursue their courses, the University Grants Committee says in its annual report, published today.

If the trend continues, it says, university courses will have to be lengthened to maintain the standard of a university degree. That would increase costs.

The report says that the lack of knowledge applies particularly to students of science and technology, but is also found in languages and other arts subjects.

Sir Frederick Dawson, chairman of the committee, said in London yesterday: "Students are coming to university without the sheer skills in mathematics to use mathematical equations, and the use of mathematical concepts is not as high as that which is regarded as necessary if they are going to be able to graduate into professional fields three years later (four years in Scotland)."

"Universities are increasingly going to have to go into

remedial work in these fields."

Sir Frederick referred later to the students' inability to do calculations requiring differentiation and integration. But it was not a uniquely British phenomenon. Research in the United States had shown a decline of between 2 and 5 per cent in the degree of preparation of university entrants for courses.

He suggested that one cause might be lack of well qualified mathematics and science teachers in schools. He also referred to a lack of experimental skills in the sciences, due partly to changes in syllabus and partly to changes of staff at school.

"This is not in any sense a criticism of the schools but it is uttered with some sympathy... it raises the whole question of expanding numbers in the future. How long can we go on doing this without lengthening the university course?" he asked. He said there was a need for university teachers to know more of what was going on in schools.

Professor Richard Atkinson, of University College, Cardiff, said that students were entering modern language courses

less well prepared in Grammar and vocabulary than they used to be. Some universities were also worried about a decline in general competence in English language among arts students.

Sir Frederick said that universities were in grave financial difficulties in their capital programmes because their allocation for building starts (£8m for the academic year 1976-77) had been cut to £5m of what they had been accustomed to expect.

The report for the academic year 1974-75 also referred to an 8 per cent reduction in the recurrent grant for day-to-day running expenses. Sir Frederick said there had been a standstill in library building and many libraries were in danger of not renewing their subscriptions to booklets, periodicals, and magazines.

He said that student numbers had grown by 2.7 per cent. Although there was an overall increase of 658 academic staff in nine universities, the number of staff had actually declined and a substantial number of posts had remained unfilled.

University Grants Committee annual survey for 1974/75 (Command 6425, Stationery Office, 50p).

Minister proposes training fewer Scots teachers

Proposals to reduce the intake to teacher training colleges in Scotland by almost a third were announced yesterday by Mr Ross, Secretary of State for Scotland. The main reasons are the fall in the birth rate and the maintenance of full employment for teachers.

The announcement came after a week of talks between officials of the Scottish Department of Education and the principals of Scotland's 10 colleges of education.

It was emphasized that the

proposals were not a joint recommendation. They came from Mr Ross and he will be considering various educational bodies before taking a final decision.

The figures announced yesterday suggest an overall reduction of 28 per cent in intake, with a recommended intake of 1,450 to primary courses and 2,700 to secondary courses for 1976-77, compared with 2,500 and 3,300 respectively in the present session.

Archivist resigns over MS sale

By Philip Howard

Mr Peter Gwyn has resigned as archivist of Winchester College in protest at the governing body's efforts to sell its Malory manuscript.

The great treasure of the college of English literature is not in his possession but that of the Fellows' Library. Mr Gwyn, a history master at the school, said last night: "I have resigned as archivist because I no longer feel that the Wardens and fellows are reliable custodians of the important documents in their possession."

It had not been demonstrated that financial need dictated the sale and there had been little effort to find out whether Old Wykehamists would be willing to buy the manuscript, and present it to the college, he said.

'Tribune' MPs seek inquiry on march strife

By Our Political Staff

Leaders of the left-wing Tribune group of Labour MPs are calling on Mr Jenkins, Home Secretary, to hold an official inquiry into the violence between police and members of the right-to-work march last Friday. They announced that yesterday after meeting representatives of the marchers at the House of Commons.

Forty-four of the marchers have been remanded on bail charged with offences arising out of the fighting. Mr Arthur Latham, chairman of the Tribune group, said he and some of his colleagues had talked to four of the marchers, two of whom were among those charged with offences. They wanted an inquiry to find out what grounds the police had for intervening in the march, but had not specified what sort of inquiry they thought should be held; that would depend on the response from the Home Secretary and from the police.

Rail scheme 'subject to VAT'

A cut-price travel scheme introduced two years ago by British Rail for the benefit of full-time students is not exempt from value-added tax, the High Court ruled yesterday. Under the scheme, which brings in an estimated £1,500,000 annual revenue, students who pay £1.65 for a card are entitled to unlimited travel at half fare.

A claim by the British Railways Board that the Student Travel Scheme was a "supply of transport" and therefore exempt from VAT, had been rejected by the London VAT Tribunal, which ruled that it was a supply of a privilege, allowing students to obtain reduced fares, and therefore subject to tax.

Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice, presiding in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court yesterday, said he would not necessarily have arrived at the same conclusion. But it was a decision which any tribunal, properly directing itself on the law, could have reached on what was a question of fact.

Mr Justice Thompson and Mr Justice Jones agreed in dismissing the board's appeal. Earlier Mr Barry Pinson, QC, for the board, said the scheme was started after a survey showed that the average student made 12 medium or long-distance journeys a year but only about a quarter of the journeys were made by rail.

At the tribunal hearing last August a British Railways official said that more than 126,000 students' travel cards were issued when the scheme started. The board was given leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal.

Report advocates check for all old people as a routine service

Aged handicapped by lack of help in homes

By John Roper

Medical Reporter

There should be a routine retirement check for all old people, just as children are checked by the school medical examination, Help the Aged says in a report published today.

The author, an anonymous general practitioner, says that little serious illness among the elderly is unknown to the family doctor but there are many minor disorders causing serious lack of mobility, comfort and enjoyment. More money is needed for such items as fuel, food, housing and day centres, and doctors should switch their interest from the curative to the preventive towards less exciting maintenance work.

The report complains especially of shortage of all services for patients at home. They include home help, laundry, geriatric services, and night nursing. It says there is no provision for physiotherapy and occupational therapy at home, which could rehabilitate stroke victims and also keep arthritics and bronchitics out of hospital.

Last month there were 1,164,300 people over 80 and the projection for 1981 was 1,451,000. More than nine million people are pensioners.

The report says that there is a shortage of staff of all kinds to care for the old. In England in 1972 there were only 252 geriatric physicians, against 339 general physicians and 339 paediatricians.

In medicine there was little inducement to specialize in geriatrics. For example, 82 per cent of chest surgeons received

distinction awards, and 70 per cent of heart specialists, against 23 per cent of psychiatrists and 18 per cent of geriatric physicians.

Family doctors had almost no training in geriatric care. A difficulty was that most of their elderly patients, accustomed to the "wellness" concept, were too proud to accept help. Few had cars, telephones or capital. They could not afford little labour-saving devices.

A survey had shown that more than half of those living alone had no fixed bath; half had only an outside lavatory, a third had no hot water and about four fifths had to fetch coal from a cellar. Many slept in unheated rooms. Some slept in the living room in winter.

Far more illness and incapacity could be treated by doctors in the home if more therapists

were available and there was money for extra food, heating and laundry.

For the chronic sick there must be routine checks on medicines. It was terrifying to see dangerous substances handled by elderly, confused people with poor eyesight, struggling to get tiny tablets from small containers. Lids were impossible for arthritic fingers and capsules or tins decanted into egg-cups or tins and separated from their labels.

Equally alarming was the fact that more than half of elderly people took self-prescribed medicines, such as aspirin, cough linctus, antacid, laxatives and vitamins, which might combine badly together or with the doctors' drugs.

No One to Home? (Help the Aged, 8-10 Deanman Street, London, W1).

Snowbound sailors rescued on Dartmoor

Four naval ratings missing on Dartmoor on Sunday night were found safe and well yesterday. They were part of a group from HMS Raleigh, a naval training establishment, who were practising for the Ten Tors walk.

The police said weather on the moor was "diabolical", with a fairly heavy fall of snow. In Glasgow two scouts were taken to hospital yesterday after being brought down by helicopter from the snow-swept Campsie Hills.

David Watson, aged 16, of Ryeland Drive, Mount Vernon, Glasgow, and Stephen Buchanan, aged 17, of Duncry Avenue, Mount Vernon, had stayed in their tent overnight on the hills north of Glasgow.

Rescue teams had searched for them throughout the night after four fellow scouts on an expedition reported them missing. One of the four was taken to hospital suffering from exhaustion after the boys had mounted an unsuccessful search for their two friends.

The two were found by rescuers soon after dawn. Police said the weather was then worsening, and the boys were taken down by helicopter. After a



A lorry skidding to a halt on inch-thick ice at Oldham, Greater Manchester, yesterday.

routine check at hospital the two boys were allowed home. Wintry conditions, with up to eight inches of snow, affected many parts of Britain yesterday. In Scotland the A93 Perth to Brecon road was blocked by three-foot drifts and the A9 Perth to Inverness road was snowbound. Snow settled in the Torbay area of Devon.

A six-inch fall closed the Llanberis Pass in North Wales and the Harriase Pass in Cumbria was blocked.

The RAC said snow ploughs were out on the A7 Edinburgh to Hawick road and in Fife there was slush on the M9.

In north-east England snow affected the M62 in Yorkshire and a 60 mph speed restriction was operating on sections. Gritting gangs worked through the night on the A628 Manchester to Sheffield road, where heavy

snow threatened to close Woodhead Pass. Eight inches of snow fell on high ground in Cheshire.

In Somerset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire sleet and snow made driving difficult on most roads, including the M5. The fast lane of Awan Bridge was closed because of slush.

There was six inches of snow in the Lynton, Lynmouth and Okehampton areas of north Devon.

Nationalists 'would hold referendum on EEC'

From David Leigh

Glasgow

If Scotland becomes independent, the Scottish National Party would probably try to renegotiate the terms of the country's membership of the EEC and sources within the party say, present the result to the electorate in a referendum, as happened in Britain last June.

The party's strategy is complicated, however, by divisions of opinion. Some members want Scotland to leave the EEC, retaining only associate status. Others want an independent Scotland represented separately in the Community's affairs.

Nationalists have thus changed their position. Before last year's referendum, the party was opposed outright to membership of the EEC but that attitude had to be modified in the light of the lack of sup-

port within Scotland in the referendum for the party's policy.

Mrs Winifred Ewing MP for Moray and Nairn and SNP representative at the European Parliament, launched an attack yesterday on the "centralist lunacies of the Brussels bureaucracy", but her message was only that special Scottish interests in fishing, farming and energy were being ignored.

She said five EEC policies or proposals threatened vital Scottish interests. Scotland ought to have a 50-mile fishing limit, she said, but the Government at Westminster was believed to be prepared to negotiate with the EEC on the basis of a 25-mile limit. Scotland should also have the right to negotiate directly on fishing quotas with nations outside the EEC.

Food prices were increasing to the Scottish consumer and livestock production costs would rise because farmers had to use skimmed milk from the dairy "mountain" as feedstuff, she added.

There was also a danger of a trade war between the EEC and the United States. The skimmed milk policy discriminated against American soya exports and "Scotland cannot afford to jeopardize its United States markets for the sake of French dairy farmers".

On energy, Mrs Ewing said the EEC Commission's proposals conflicted with Scotland's interest in the long-term conservation of oil.

The proposed direct elections to the EEC Parliament would give Scotland only seven or eight seats, she added, but Den-

mark, with the same population, would have 17. "Such a discrepancy is intolerable to one of the oldest nations in Europe".

"Should answer to courts": The limit of the powers to be exercised by the proposed Scottish assembly should be defined by the courts and not by the Government, Scotland's sheriffs said yesterday (the Press Association reports).

In a memorandum on the devolution White Paper, the Sheriff's Association says: "We consider that the decision whether an act of the assembly is ultra vires should be a judicial, rather than a ministerial, function."

The association has sent the memorandum to Mr Ross, Secretary of State for Scotland. Coal reception in Wales, page 14

Man 'picked up baby boy with his teeth'

From Our Correspondent

Ipswich

A man who used to pick up a baby boy with his teeth also branded the child's leg with a red-hot poker "to remove a boil", it was alleged at Ipswich Crown Court yesterday.

Judge Stinson was told that David Gilbert, aged 28, of no fixed address, carried the baby around by biting its buttocks with his teeth. Mr Gilbert was jailed for two years after pleading guilty to maliciously wounding Colin Mann, aged 22 months, deliberately ill-treating the child and assaulting the boy's brother Jason, aged six, causing actual bodily harm.

Mr Graham Parkins, for the prosecution, said that Mr Gilbert had separated from his wife last October he moved in with Mrs Sandra Mann and her six children in Allenby Road, Ipswich.

Mr Parkins added: "He soon began to apply unnecessary pressure on some of the children." On one occasion he put a poker into a fire until it was red-hot and then put it against Colin's leg where he had a spot or a cyst.

Mr Paul Downes, for the defence of Mr Gilbert, said he denied that he had ever carried the child around with his teeth and had never burnt him with a cigarette. He said: "He found the children to be unhappy and wild and in trying to discipline them he went too far."



Gemma Craven and Richard Chamberlain, who play Cinderella and the Prince in "The Slipper and the Rose", the film chosen for tomorrow's Royal Film Performance.

Editor wants Press Council to have sanction power

By A Staff Reporter

A stronger Press Council with powers to suspend journalists guilty of outrageous behaviour was recommended yesterday by Mr Albert (Larry) Lamb, editor of The Sun.

Giving evidence to the Royal Commission on the Press, he criticized the constitution of the council and the number of lay people who served on it. "I do not like what I regard as a dilution of the facts before the Council by lay members who find it difficult to understand issues," he said. "A wholly professional Press Council would be a more effective body. How many lay people are there in the BMA or the Law Society? I am quite sure we would be our own sternest critics."

Mr Lamb said he had wasted much time in providing evidence for cases which the council should never have found it necessary to consider and described the situation as unsatisfactory.

He said he would help in drawing up a press charter but had no hope of its being a great success.

Mr David Greenslade, president of the Newspaper Society, said press freedom should never

be put at the mercy of journalists, because they might be tempted to censor the news. He said the closed shop and press freedom were conflicting principles of democracy.

"You do not put weapons into the hands of people who might use them against you," he said. He continued: "If there were a general strike, journalists could prevent any discussion of the facts before during and after if they were under the control of any central body."

"We are not suggesting that this is what the National Union of Journalists would do. It has a fine record of protecting press freedom. But there is a danger of putting in the hands of the union this particular power when we have no guarantee it will not be misused."

Mr Greenslade said the Newspaper Society opposed subsidies in the newspaper industry but would be interested in low-cost newsprint.

County Councils Northamptonshire Association of Trades Councils yesterday appealed to all six town trades councils in the county to deal only with newspaper journalists belonging to the NUJ (four Northampton Correspondents writes).

Church report on doctrine puzzles Archbishop

By Our Religious Affairs

Correspondent

The Church of England's recent report on Christian doctrine has been criticized by the Greek Orthodox Church in Britain, Archbishop Achenburg. The report, he says in the journal, *Orthodox Herald*, will contribute to confusion and disappointment in the churches.

He further suggests that its approach, the investigation of historical data without reference to divine intervention, leads "to an absolute agnosticism which through reverence is indicative of a weak faith or of a total loss of faith."

Archbishop Achenburg says he is writing at the request of the Ecumenical Patriarch, Dimitrios. Because of the friendly relations between Anglicans and Orthodox members "some of our Orthodox people were rather disturbed by the criticisms of the book appear-

ing not only in secular papers but also in ecclesiastical journals such as *The Church Times*.

He is joint chairman of the Anglican-Orthodox Joint Theological Dialogue, and describes himself as an ardent advocate of the Anglican Communion's eventual union with the Orthodox Church. "I am indeed puzzled by this report," he writes, "and I am in agreement with others who have asked whether the Anglican theologians are trying to lead their church."

The report, *Christian Believing*, was published last month by the Doctrine Commission of the Church of England. It set out to examine how contemporary Christians should view scripture and the ancient creeds.

The Archbishop points out that the report is not a statement of an official Anglican position.

Liberals oppose worker-directors on industrial management boards

By Our Labour Editor

Liberals have opposed the TUC's plan to oblige companies to put trade unionists on new supervisory boards of management that would run industry.

In its evidence to the Bullock inquiry on industrial democracy, the party calls for a cooperative commitment by labour, capital and government to economic success in the market place.

The evidence, submitted to the Government-appointed inquiry by Mr John Pardo, MP, is supplemented by a long pamphlet, *Democracy at Work*, also published today. The pamphlet, *Democracy at Work*, councils, employee voting rights and profit sharing are necessary to assist in the "ing of industrial strife".

In their memorandum to the Bullock committee, the Liberals say: "We believe that proposals for industrial democracy and increased participation are

part of the general trend towards a fairer distribution of power and opportunity within industrial and other organizations.

We recognize that trade unions continue to have an essential role in developing the influence of working people over their working environment, and that without their active cooperation little progress can be made.

We do not think it possible to lay down a single blueprint for introducing industrial democracy throughout British industry and believe that much work will be required to tailor schemes to meet the needs of different parts of industry."

The Liberals will propose a "participative style" in industry as the solution for Britain's poor industrial relations which, they say, are often aggravated by unthinking, remote and autocratic management. Self-management at work should be encouraged.

Rolling grudge urged for Arts Council

By Our Political Staff

The Arts Council, in opposition to the artistic life, has been awarded Government grants to it with a rolling programme grants, the Bow Group today.

The group's standing on the arts says the Council should be given a rolling grant, adjusted year, on a three or five basis. Such a system, it quinquennial grants to University Grants Com would enable it to plan freely.

It argues that the rest caused by annual grant prevented the Arts from giving adequate regional theatres and trams in planning progress especially festivals.

"It has also been hampered in its aid to building of new arts concert halls and galleries the adaptation of premises through the Arts Fund," the group

Human rights inquiry into jail complaint

By Our Home Affairs

Correspondent

The European Commission Human Rights has investigated a complaint by a black man about his treatment in British prisons.

Mr Arthur Hilton, a prison for most of his life, that for he had to accept confinement in order to protect from other inmates because he is black and conviction for a sexual offence. He also alleges that he was victim of harassment and warranted punitive measures.

Mr Hilton says that he wished to complain he was allowed to consult a Mr M. J. Gold, his solicitor, to comment on his case.

Mr Hilton, 1971 of malicious wound sentenced to four years' imprisonment, which he serves at Leeds and Liv-

Man in office uniform fined

Peter William Dixon, 49, said to have bought an unbranded uniform from Brothers and worn it a permission, was fined a £82 at Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court, London, today.

Mr Dixon, of Bassire Lodge, was charged with wearing the uniform without Queen's permission and a man in a uniform was likely to cause contempt upon it. He was fined £82 at Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court, London, today.

300 frogs moved to safety

The Nature Conservancy the RSPCA combined to try to save 300 frog marshland home with buried under thousands of slates in a red scheme.

Last week frog sps removed by the bucket the area at Blaenau Ff North Wales, and yeste frogs were taken from placed in containers by van more than 100 the Dolgellau and Arls

Whittle case hear

Committee pro against Donald Nelles of Thornbury, who is charged with using Lesley Whittle, a 16-year-old girl, as a sex slave, are to next week at K Staffordshire. It was revealed North Ma Court, Newcastle-upon yesterday.

Nurse remanded

Michael Reginald aged 43, a mental nurse, of Weyland, Bradford, Yorkshire, charges of ill-treating was remanded on bail at Reading Crown Court until April 26.

Summonses on squatters not properly served

Two hundred squatters facing the threat of eviction from flats at Hornsey Rise, London, won a tactical victory in the High Court yesterday. Mr Justice Fox upheld their argument that 190 named defendants had not been effectively served with summonses and evidence by the GLC in its eviction proceedings.

He adjourned the summonses, seeking possession of Golding House, in Hazellville Road, for three weeks for the service irregularity to be corrected.

The judge ruled that, although the council had left 89 hundreds of summonses and evidence at various strategic points

in the flats, that did not comply with the rules so far as the named defendants were concerned. The GLC must direct copies of the papers to each of the named defendants.

The Squatters' Action Council, which coordinates squating in London, said later that all electricity to the three blocks had been cut off. "The GLC are being vindictive to the people in these blocks," it added.

Mr Tony Judge, chairman of the GLC Housing Committee, said that the squatters' action could only delay council plans to make the flats available, after modernization, to young married couples.

Promiscuous girls 'also need protection'

Girls thought to be promiscuous are entitled to the law's protection against being raped as well as girls of a more virtuous character, Lord Justice Roskill said in the Court of Appeal yesterday. He added: "The sooner young men realize that, the better."

Dismissing an appeal by a man convicted of raping a girl of 17, the judge said: "This was deliberate rape of a gang-bang kind on a girl, albeit of bad character sexually. But girls thought to be an easy lay, as well as girls of a more virtuous character, are entitled to protection." He said Colin Muscroft, aged 25, a painter, of Wyke Gate Road,

Thorne, South Yorkshire, had been justly convicted at Sheffield Crown Court on March 4 last year. Mr Muscroft's appeal against his five-year jail sentence was also dismissed.

The judges rejected fresh evidence by Mrs Jennifer Holder, who once worked at a factory with the victim of the rape. She said the girl, now married, boasted of her experience two days after the incident and said she had enjoyed it.

The court was told that Mr Muscroft's young wife had taken her life after his conviction and imprisonment. Lord Justice Roskill said: "Regrettably, that is no ground for extending leniency towards him."

Man set friend on fire, QC says

Philip Johnson, aged 21, was alleged at Winchester Crown Court yesterday to have set fire to John Reynolds, a friend who was asleep, because he thought he had stolen a Giro cheque from him. He was said to have piled papers and blankets on top of Mr Reynolds and set them alight.

Firemen found Mr Reynolds lying by the side of the bed in a flat in Southsea, near Portsmouth, with severe burns. Mr Roger Titheridge, QC, for the prosecution, told the jury, Mr Johnson, of no fixed address, denies attempted murder, grievous bodily harm, destroying effects with intent to endanger life and theft.

WEST EUROPE

Lisbon upset by wave of explosions as elections approach

From Our Correspondent
Lisbon, March 22

An explosion wrecked the facade of the Oporto university faculty of economics in northern Portugal early today. It was the latest in a series of explosions in the second city, where in recent weeks a series of explosions has destroyed cars belonging to left-wing party members and damaged official buildings.

More than 110 bombs have exploded in Portugal in the last five months. Responsibility for some has been claimed by left wing organizations while others are claimed by right-wing groups based outside the country.

These terrorist acts, together with the recent strikes, are causing serious anxiety in the Government so close to the elections for a legislative assembly on April 25.

In many quarters the anti-social activities are regarded as delaying tactics by political groups in disagreement with government policies. "Who wants to delay the elections?" is a familiar question in the Portuguese press.

A partial strike of nurses still continues in the Lisbon area, although stoppages in the north and south have ended. Chemists' assistants have been called out on a two-day strike in the south but 28 chemists in Lisbon will remain open for emergency service. The strike is for higher pay.

A building strike due today was called off at the last minute when the Government yielded to wage claims. Heavy engineering and shipyard workers have threatened to strike from March 29 if demands for workers' control are not granted. Dr. Alvaro Cunhal, the Communist party leader, has stated publicly: "We are not the ones who are

starting off the strike wave". He added that it created an element of instability "which does not help democracy".

Lisbon: One of Portugal's principal left-wing commanders today disclosed plans for large-scale army manoeuvres this week in what seems to be a show of military strength before the elections.

A regiment each of infantry, tanks and artillery are to join in a combined exercise on Wednesday and Thursday in the central military region of Lisbon which is under the command of Brigadier Franco Chaves.

A regional command statement said the manoeuvres were to improve the discipline and operational efficiency needed to preserve Portugal's national independence and the establishment of democratic order in the country. This was taken to mean that the left-wing brigadier was bent on ensuring that the Communists would be able to campaign in the region under his command.

Paris: Admiral Jose Pinheiro de Azevedo, the Portuguese Prime Minister, said in a statement published here today that the main lesson of recent events in Portugal was that "it is indeed possible to fight totalitarian political forces and win".

Observers believed he was referring to the Portuguese Communist Party.

The statement, in English, was the main item in a special section of the *International Herald Tribune* devoted to Portugal. The newspaper is published in Paris.

He said: "I have not the slightest hesitancy in accepting the theses that Portugal was used as a pawn in a complex geopolitical game, played in Africa, in Europe and even, as we know now, with reflex responses in Latin America."

High seas foil efforts to stop oil leak from wreck

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, March 22

Bad weather today again prevented Dutch frogmen from stopping oil leaking from the side of the Olympic Bravery, the supertanker wrecked off the island of Ushant.

It was the second consecutive day of high seas with 15ft waves, and high winds, which have foiled the attempts by specialists from an Amsterdam salvage firm. An estimated five tonnes a day of light fuel oil is reaching the island.

The Dutch firm has also been engaged in salvaging some 1,200 tonnes of oil which is jellified and which must first be heated and then pumped out by the "hot tap" technique. There is a risk that gas collected in the ship may cause an explosion and increase the pollution.

As the Libran-registered 25,000-ton supertanker, which is owned by the Onassis Shipping Company, went aground off Ushant nearly two months ago the French press is asking why no one ordered emergency action before the bad spring weather.

Le Monde has summed up the dissatisfaction with a cartoon showing a man from the Ministry of the Quality of Life talking in with two pigs as oil leaks from the wrecked tanker.

M. Jean Chapon, the Secretary-General of the French Merchant Marine, which comes under the Ministry of Transport, said today that an official inquiry had been opened by the French merchant marine authorities the day the tanker

went aground. The results of the inquiry were not yet ready.

M. Chapon emphasized that the difficulties in reaching the vessel amid sharp rocks and breaking waves had raised the question whether it was worth risking human lives in such an enterprise when the Olympic Bravery carried no cargo of oil. There was pollution, he conceded, but only hundreds of tons of oil were involved.

From late January international tenders had been put out by the authorities in France. But the technical difficulties had caused international firms not to take them up.

While emphasizing that he was not referring specifically to the case of the Olympic Bravery, M. Chapon noted that France was very opposed to the phenomenon of flags of convenience.

Experience, he said, that it was through doubtfully skilled crews and doubtful respect for international safety regulations that such companies were able to offer serious competition to national lines.

France had several times made proposals to the European Community for action.

The prefecture of Finistère, to whom the mayor of Ushant had appealed for emergency action, argued that it was up to the owners to take steps to get the Olympic Bravery off the rocks before the storms came. But the prefecture maintains that 24 hours before these storms broke Lloyd's, the insurers, decided that the vessel must be regarded as a lost cause and prepared to pay the owners compensation.

UN group to coordinate satellites' work

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, March 22

A coordinating role envisaged for the United Nations in a future system for remote sensing by satellites of the earth's natural resources is being considered here by the 37-nation scientific and technical subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the peaceful uses of outer space.

It will also discuss at its three-week meeting here the possibility of setting up a panel of international experts on remote sensing.

According to a United Nations working group report, the most valuable applications of remote sensing are connected with agriculture, water resources and forestry. It estimates the yearly benefits could be several hundred million pounds by the 1980s.

Nato defence study quoted in MPs' warning

By Our Political Staff

Six Conservative MPs have tabled an early day motion at the House of Commons giving warning of the danger of further defence cuts in the light of the study by a Nato general of the likely success of Warsaw Pact forces in a surprise attack on the West.

The MPs, led by Mr. Michael Marshall (Arun), note the contents of the study, which was first published in *The Times*, and say that any Government proposals for further defence cuts would "represent an unjustifiable risk to Western security".

The motion points out that such an attack could be made by the Warsaw Pact using only conventional forces. It urges the Government to reverse the decline in the proportion of spending allocated for conventional weapons and manpower.

Orphans' former guardian threatened with jail

Copenhagen, March 22—Mr. Jørgensen, the Danish Prime Minister, said today the former guardian of 200 Vietnamese war orphans and their guardians could be jailed if they tried to get in touch with the children after the week-end scenes of violence.

The children came here last April. After a special Cabinet meeting today Mr. Jørgensen announced measures to isolate the orphans from Herr Becker, the West German diplomat, who brought them here.

Earlier, welfare authorities issued a number of the

orphans after they went on a rampage against being separated from Herr Becker. Twenty-eight of the 200 children smashed furniture and windows yesterday at a welfare home. Some police were injured.

Last Friday the police took the children from the house where they were staying with Herr Becker, from whose guardianship they were removed last month.

Mr. Jørgensen said Herr Becker would probably be put under a restraining order by the police to stay away from the children. If he got in touch with them he could be jailed.

Italy's rulers resist move to left

Christian Democrats have two heads and two minds

From Peter Nichols
Rome, March 22

Delegates to the national congress of the governing Christian Democratic Party today responded with emotional gratitude to the heady assertions that they could still be strong, had always been honestly led, were responsible for three decades of progress, should go back to disorganising Communists, abide by the Christian values natural to them, and remain united.

The principal speaker of the day, Signor Arnaldo Forlani, was taken reasonably enough, to be making his bid for leadership on the party. He ceased, with an unexpectedly strong political instinct, that the rank and file was disturbed in two ways.

First, by the constant accusations of corruption, by allegations of ineffectual government and moral bankruptcy and of an inevitable dependence, formal or otherwise, on the Communists.

Secondly, by the uncertain path sketched for them by the present leadership under Signor Benigno Zaccagnini who, as secretary, has proposed a better moral climate, combined with a broadening of the concept of democracy in order to provide the chance for a more effective contribution from the powerful Communist Party to the process of bringing the country out of its crisis.

Signor Forlani, who is Minister of Defence and a former party secretary, was as careful as he could be this morning to appear to be speaking for the party as a whole. Indeed, at times his apologetics of the party's virtues and its continuing need for vitality were stirring to any kind of Christian Democrat too long subjected to disdain and reproach.

But there could be no doubt that the congress now has two heads and two minds. When he had finished, about half of the delegates stayed to cheer him.

Comments were varied about Signor Forlani's speech. Most were favourable in the sense that it was a very effective performance but no one would doubt that his approach was conservative and traditionalist by comparison with the party secretary's views.

He set straight off with the argument that no apologies were necessary: "My hands", he said, raising his palms to the huge audience, "are clean like those of all Christian Democratic secretaries."

He then went on to question the idea that democracy implied a succession of different arrangements leading in a generally leftward direction.

Many delegates rose and cheered when he said: "Certainly we must be ready to go even into opposition. But first, and much more important, is that we have the courage to fight, with beads high and banners unfurled, to give Christian Democracy back its decisive role."

Brussels fears direct elections delay

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, March 22

There is growing concern in Brussels that heads of government attending the EEC summit in Luxembourg next week will renounce on their promise to approve direct elections to the European Parliament by 1978.

Similar fears were expressed earlier this month by Euro-

pean MPs in Strasbourg, who passed a resolution urging that there should be no delay in approving such elections.

The main cause of anxiety here is the attitude of President Giscard d'Estaing of France, who is under strong pressure from the Gaullists to oppose the present proposals for direct elections.

The Gaullists demand that

the distribution of seats in a directly-elected assembly must be strictly proportional to national population and that the system of voting must be identical throughout the Community.

These demands would effectively delay direct elections virtually indefinitely, since neither would be acceptable to all of the Nine.

Danes ending strike over jobs given to British

Copenhagen, March 22—A total of 450 Danish building workers, who had been on strike here for more than two weeks in protest against the employment of eight British fitters, today decided to return to work and let the Britons stay on the site.

A spokesman for the strikers said one of the conditions for the return would be that no further British workers were used on the big hospital project at Herlev, a Copenhagen suburb.

The British workers' wages will also be subjected to negotiation with respective unions in bringing them into line with Danish wage levels," the spokesman said.

The strikers protested originally against the low wages paid to the British fitters, but last week it emerged that the Britons were paid marginally better than local staff.

The British fitters were brought here last month after earlier labour troubles, involving Danes only, seriously delayed the installation of a £300,000 British-made internal transport system.

The Danish workers then went on strike in protest against the employment of foreign labour at a time of high unemployment in Denmark. They also demanded the reinstatement of recently dismissed Danes.—Reuter.

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BRITISH GAS

The riverside planning challenge

self. It includes the Shakespeare's Globe and an appeal may be made to finance a replacement.

Overshadowing the 61 the 38-acre Hay's Wharf stretching all the way Cannon Street railway in Tower Bridge. Redevel proposals announced in 1971, for two hotels, 60,000 flats, and some 2 sq ft of offices, have since clouded by political, economic uncertainty, but council hopes agreement sight.

Proposals for the Docks are to be announced.

month. They include an international merchant keel, to be built by an American company.

It looks as if the work waterside is rivaling Covent Garden as the best planning challenge gone since rebuilding of time bombing.

Mr. Griffiths, who eight years won a development campaign in a staunch advocacy of ship between local and private enterprise, area as complementary "nourishing" the City plan, he observed, each site has become a field for conflicting in-

Grants
\$23,540 from the Science Council in department of physics for research into properties of gaseous and electrical discharges.
\$16,368 from the Medical Council to the department of physics and synecology for the study of human radiation, "biokinetics" and its investigation and fertility.
\$37,542 from the SRC for electronic and electrical for research into fundamental properties of liquid phase in p-n junctions.

Bardrick v Haycock and Others	Bardrick could avail himself of the exemption offered to a landlord	the Rent that each
--------------------------------------	---	--------------------

the Rent Acts. The judge found that each flat formed part of a building which was not a purpose-built block of flats and that the flats were not tenanted. Mr. Berdick was not occupying as his residence a dwelling-house which also formed part of the building occupied by the defendant.

It was argued for Mr. Berdick that the judge had erred in law. For that reason the appeal was allowed. The judge left the matter to the judge to decide on the facts.

The question was whether, on the facts, the judge had erred in law. It was a matter of fact for the judge to decide. Parliament had clearly left it to the judge to decide whether or not the "building" having regard to all the circumstances of the case. There was no question for the judge as to the intention of Parliament to relieve a landlord from the consequences of protection where it was reasonable to do so.

Mr. Berdick was of opinion that there was abundant evidence on which the judge could reach the conclusion he did. He would dismiss the appeal.

Sir Gordon Willmer and Lord Justice Cairns agreed.


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NATIONAL RE

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Why Russia will try to save the idea of détente

As the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Andrei Gromyko, begins talks in London with Mr. Callaghan and Mr. Wilson, a report from Moscow considers the recent erosion of East-West détente.

Recent statements and moves by President Ford and Dr. Kissinger are giving Moscow the distinct impression that the President was not just playing with words when he said he would no longer use the term "détente" to describe United States policy towards the Soviet Union, and would replace it with the phrase "peace through strength". When Mr. Ford first made this remark in the hear of the Florida primary campaign, the Soviet responsible spokesmen made allowances. They said they realised the President was up against the arch-reactionary Mr. Ronald Reagan in an arch-conservative state.

Since then the President has recommended two record Pentagon budgets, and has cast doubt on the conclusion of a new SALT 2 agreement with the USSR. Now comes the announcement that the President will not meet Mr. Brezhnev at the summit conference in Moscow, due to take place in the near future, have been postponed indefinitely.

The Joint Energy Committee was due in Moscow yesterday. The Russians were notified by letter that the American side required further time to prepare for the meeting. Similar letters were received by Moscow concerning meetings of the Housing and Urban Development Committee and the Joint Commercial Commission, both of which were to meet this spring, though the exact dates had not been set. None of these letters gave the reason for the suspension since voiced by Dr. Kissinger, that one could not do business as usual with the Soviet Union after its behaviour in Angola.

Chances for success are dampened

Negotiations on United States purchase of Soviet oil have also been aggravated. Though each of these activities and negotiations in different areas is by itself of minor importance, the cumulative effect of postponement could dampen chances for success of the far more important SALT 2 negotiations, which, according to both President Ford and Dr. Kissinger, are expected to go on. Moreover, though Mr. Ford's campaign effort to outmanoeuvre Mr. Reagan has initially served its initial campaign purpose, it retains much of its momentum, largely because opinion polls show increasing disillusionment with détente.

On top of all this, Egypt's abrogation of the friendship and cooperation treaty, comes as a slap in the Soviet face. Rightly or wrongly, the Russians suspect the hand involved was that of the United States. The conviction has been growing in Moscow that President Sadat was conspiring with the Americans from way back, that he probably has had CIA connections. *Pravda* cites the New York Daily News comment that Mr. Sadat's break with the Soviet Union is "good

news for the United States and Israel" and increases opportunities for channelling Egypt in the direction desired by the United States.

There have been other incidents which might seem significant. There was the recent and still unresolved flurry over alleged microwave radiation beamed at the American Embassy in Moscow, claimed to be injurious to personnel. Shots fired at the Riverdale residence of the Soviet United Nations mission; harassment of mission members and their families by demonstrating Jewish "militants"; and the bombing of the Aeroflot airline office in midtown New York—these produced a series of strongly worded Soviet protests, charging the authorities with laxity, almost connivance with the offenders, in failing to provide adequate protection.

The Soviet attitude remains one of caution and reserve. Moscow is still officially pledged to the policy of détente reaffirmed by Mr. Brezhnev at the recent Communist Party congress, including continued efforts to improve relations with the United States. At the same time, there is growing concern over trends not quite aligned with projections by Kremlin policy planners. Their position papers on the United States are distilled in a "think tank" called the "USA and Canada Institute". First established in 1958, as a branch of the Soviet Union Academy of Sciences, the tank now has panels of experts immersed in all aspects of the North American scene. The director, an urbane, erudite Academician, Mr. Georgy Arbatov, was made a candidate member of the Central Committee at the twenty-fifth party congress.

The Soviet leaders would hardly have taken such a calculated risk in Angola without first consulting Mr. Arbatov and his Washington-watchers on probable United States reaction. They probably reasoned that for the better part of every leap year, effective government drive, including conduct of foreign policy, is partly paralyzed by the distractions of the presidential election campaign. This time paralysis has been aggravated by the aftermath of Watergate, the rift between an appointed President and a recalcitrant Congress, and the impact of world economic recession. It is conceivable that the experts now feel they may have underestimated American reaction. Now that Angola is a closed chapter, the Kremlin is unlikely to push its luck any further in that direction. It will probably urge restraint on its Cuban underlings (though they might prove harder to leash than it was to unleash them).

Meanwhile the Russians will continue to press for a SALT 2 agreement, despite Mr. Ford's present coolness, and otherwise seek to repair recent erosion of United States-Soviet relations. They are still as eager as ever for access to American technology, and relations with American business firms continue normally despite political obstacles: barring impromptu, after the elections, this could be the ballast for renewed stabilization. It is a kind of love-hate relationship.

Edmund Stevens

The gloomy reality that must eliminate five out of six

Bernard Levin

What the Labour Party and the country need is not a tactician or a strategist but a man of principle...

no time for misunderstanding—I had better say this: I am not calling for a Prime Minister who will have a "confrontation with the unions" or a show-down with the left, or any other such exciting, comic-strip programme, with Mr. Jenkins in the role of Dao Dared, and Mr. Prentice, say, appointed Lord High Executioner and sent out with instructions not to come back except with a triumph full of severed heads, including both of Mr. Benn's. Any Labour Prime Minister will need to keep the cooperation of those who dispense power in the unions; this is not because his position will not be secure unless he does, but because the cooperation of the unions is an objective necessity if any of the things the country needs are to be successfully accomplished. Everybody talks as if Mr. Foot has some kind of mystic bond with Mr. Jones which only he can wield. Excalibur can understand; the belief, however, depends on the assumption that Mr. Jones is a fool who does not understand his own interests. But Mr. Jones is not a fool, and he does understand his own interests; he drives a bargain, and he will drive it with any Prime Minister at all.

The trouble with Mr. Callaghan is not that he will be a conciliator, for any Labour leader must conciliate; not that he will be a pragmatist, for whoever wins must be a pragmatist; not that he refuses to get excited, for a refusal to get excited is essential to the office of Mr. Foot and Mr. Benn, as it happens, are ruled out on all

three of those counts, but Mr. Callaghan is not. His weakness is a subtly different one; it is that in the search for a means of avoiding trouble he will constantly succumb to the temptation to deny reality. By the reality he here already; we are in the crisis, not about to meet it over the next hill but one, and the result of denying its existence will be not only to damage the country still further (and the members of the PLP, after all, are citizens, too), but to ensure a massive defeat for the Labour Party whenever the election comes. (Mr. Foot would ensure such a defeat, of course, though on other grounds; whatever his residual qualities of candour and tolerance, he is seen by millions of people as well as by the media as a brutal, authoritarian and implacable Robespierre, and it is useless to tell those who believe as much that they are wrong, for the belief is immovable, and it must—must—be borne in mind by any Labour MP, not already committed to the left, who is even now contemplating voting for Mr. Foot because he has passion and eloquence to rouse the sleeping faithful. If you want real confrontation, gentlemen, and so electoral massacre to follow, vote for Mr. Foot.)

Mr. Callaghan is not at all a fool, though he is not very clever. He is not a rogue; indeed he is probably more honest than many a man who gets excited, as long as he is not on the left; in fact he is to the right of Mr. Jenkins, despite the

Is Dr Castro playing the crusader again?

The Angolan war is not the first time Dr Fidel Castro has involved Cubans in African affairs. Ten years ago he sent a 200-strong expeditionary force to Congo under the leadership of Che Guevara. Remarkably little is known of this campaign; just that it was unsuccessful and that after six months of frustration, Guevara went off to lead a still more disastrous, Castro-sponsored campaign in Bolivia. Here he was to die.

What he had failed to do in Africa—to start a strategically placed revolutionary fire that would spread over a whole continent. In fact he failed again and lost his life in the attempt.

Cuban intervention in Angola today is a different story. The expeditionary force numbers some 12,000 troops, the whole campaign has been highly publicized, and most important of all it has been highly successful.

But because the Cubans have been operating with Soviet arms and financial backing, they are generally considered nothing more than Soviet mercenaries. I believe this is an oversimplification. To believe that Castro is merely a mercenary, or a puppet of the Soviet Union, is to miss the point of his own initiative.

Dr Castro has always had a romantic, Walter Mitty streak in his complex, colourful personality. It was common knowledge throughout the first 10 years of his dictatorship that he saw himself as a second Simon Bolivar, riding on a white horse the length of Latin America, liberating its peoples from capitalist/imperialist misrule.

It was only after Guevara's fiasco in Bolivia in 1967 and Dr Castro's own agricultural and industrial catastrophes at home that followed shortly after, that the Soviet Union was finally able to put sufficient pressure on him to curb the extrovert Cuban leader's taste for foreign adventure.

This is why for the next three years

nothing was heard of Cuban intervention abroad. With the help of something like three-quarters of a million pounds a day from the Soviet Union, Dr Castro busied himself tidying up his economy at home and rebuilding bridges with the countries of Latin America which had broken with him after the missile crisis in 1962.

But Dr Castro's crusading ambitions have been dampened, not quenched. In 1973 there were substantiated stories of "150 Cuban military specialists" in the Yemen, and of Cuban military equipment being landed at Aden. The following year, 100 Cubans were reported "advising" Syrian forces, and 80 Somalis went to Cuba for "political and other instruction". Then suddenly last year, in 1975, Cuba might not now regard Africa as a dress rehearsal for some Latin American adventure to wipe out the memory of Guevara's Bolivian disaster? It is certain that the idea will have occurred to him, and that he will have given it an airing during his recent visit to Moscow.

For a man who 20 years ago set out from a tiny island in a leaky boat called Granma to overthrow the country's government and succeeded against all the odds—the idea is not an extravagant one. His irregular (by our standards) manner of life and dress, his wild interludes, the lack of judgment he showed in the sixties in internal and external affairs, have understandably made us forget the strength of his personality, his dynamism, his determination. When his fanatical aspirations for himself and for his country chime with the tactical or strategic planning of the Soviet Union, he is still, in my view, a force to be reckoned with wherever the winds of change could be blowing.

white, apartheid-orientated opposition. There would be manoeuvres with live bullets for Dr Castro's highly efficient fighting forces; the strong possibility of success better even for the country's dignitaries than gold medals at the Olympic Games; the possibility of an early option on Angola's natural resources. There would be the chance to wipe out the memory of Cuba's earlier abortive mission in the Congo, and incidentally bring back a little sparkle to the lives of the Cuban people.

And now that he has been successful, what next? There are still too many unknowns to make a worthwhile guess at how long Cuban troops will stay in Angola; whether, beady with victory, they will be tempted to push over the border. Who is to say that Dr Castro might not now regard Africa as a dress rehearsal for some Latin American adventure to wipe out the memory of Guevara's Bolivian disaster? It is certain that the idea will have occurred to him, and that he will have given it an airing during his recent visit to Moscow.

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Sir Herbert Marchant
The author was British Ambassador to Cuba at the time of the missile crisis.
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Devolution: finding a cool welcome in Wales

There is no doubt that public reaction to the Government's White Paper on devolution is ambivalent. On the one hand, there are many people who think that these proposals do not go far enough. They take the view that the proposed Welsh Assembly should be strengthened by giving it legislative powers as well as some economic functions. The Welsh Nationalists go much further than this. They are asking for a Welsh Government with its own foreign policy so that Wales would have the same status in the EEC and other international organisations as the Republic of Ireland or Denmark.

If the maximum demands for devolution were granted the fabric and structure of the United Kingdom would be broken. The more moderate devolutionists such as the Welsh Nationalists and the Welsh Labour Party support the Government's contention that devolution is no more than a mild injection of regional government that will leave the political framework of the United Kingdom relatively undisturbed.

These views cover a considerable part of the spectrum of public opinion since they range from the view that the White Paper proposals are about right to those who want nothing less than a Welsh nation-state. But the surprising thing is that the public opinion polls are showing that the pro-devolution stance does not command more than minority support in Wales. More remarkable in that five or six years ago, when the Welsh Nationalist Party was in government, there was fairly strong majority support for a Welsh Parliament.

I should like, therefore, to give some of the reasons why I think this change has taken place.

Changes would be biggest for centuries

I tend to believe the polls when they indicate flagging support for devolution in Wales since the same mood is captured in a wide range of public statements, as well as in the more informal discussions.

For example, it seems that 70 per cent of the population want a referendum before changes are made, a modest request since the Government itself says the proposed constitutional changes are the most fundamental of their kind for several centuries. I suspect that the Cabinet's continued refusal to agree to a referendum is not unconnected with its fear of a substantial rebuff for the White Paper in Wales.

Why then, unlike the Scots, are the Welshmen against devolution? I think that their attitude stems from five main reasons.

First, there is the political argument. The Welsh are radical in their politics and about half the electorate support the Labour Party. But socialism for most is an objective for Britain as a whole, not just for Wales. In particular, the left wing of the Labour Party still follows the dictum of Aneurin Bevan that the seat of power is in Westminster and Whitehall so that self-government for Wales is, at best, an irrelevant issue.

Devolution, in the long run, is bound to mean diminished representation for Scotland and Wales in the House of Commons and will therefore lessen the chances for the Labour Party to form a government in the United Kingdom as a whole. Even in the short run Welsh MPs will find their authority standing impaired if a Welsh Assembly assumes control of education, local government and the social services.

Secondly, there is the question of the machinery of government. One finds much regret

in Wales that the changes would involve a much reduced role for the Secretary of State for Wales and the Welsh Office, no more than 11 years after their creation. It should be remembered that the Welsh Office is now settling down into a well-defined and useful role after a difficult start. Its main impact has been in regional planning, in its economic and environmental aspects, and more recently still in attracting EEC resources to Wales.

To consolidate and strengthen this department would be of material advantage to Wales. But the Government's proposal will drastically reduce the scope and authority of the department, and for much of its future existence it is likely to be in sustained conflict with the Welsh Assembly. There are few in Wales who see this as a recipe for good government.

Thirdly, there is the future of local government. It would be idle to deny that the reform of the structure of local government in 1974 was popular. The emergence of the larger administrative counties has been accompanied by serious undermining of the local government service and is currently beset by inflation and a steep rise in the rates. There is also the feeling that a Welsh Assembly, despite its lack of legislative power, will stimulate another upheaval and a further reorganisation of local government. Most Welshmen blink at the thought.

Fourthly, many people in Wales argue strongly against devolution on economic grounds. The Welsh standard of living is well below the national average, and there seems no immediate prospect of Celtic oil to tempt us, as the Scots have been tempted, to cut ties with England.

We have already established English MPs will no longer be inclined to favour Wales at the expense of their own relatively poor regions of the North-West and the North-East.

Fifthly, the likely cost of devolution arouses concern. The White Paper is comfortably reassuring in setting up the Assembly and the future development of its bureaucracy will be on a small scale. But recent experience in administrative change suggests the contrary. More is likely to be spent on the machinery of government and less on its output in services to the community.


The present mood of the Labour Government and the Conservative opposition is to transfer resources away from the public sector to make room for private investment in manufacturing industry. Devolution inevitably implies a more costly apparatus of government, and on this count is not very welcome in Wales.

I think these five arguments account for the current mood of scepticism in Wales. There are other important issues which I have not discussed here, particularly the question of the Welsh language which has been a long-standing demand for the Welsh people. But I believe these are ways of strengthening the element of public control over the executive without at the same time incurring the likely deleterious consequences of the proposals that are before us.

The White Paper has made some valid points in these areas which need serious study and research.

Although I cannot examine them in this article, I believe there are ways of strengthening the element of public control over the executive without at the same time incurring the likely deleterious consequences of the proposals that are before us.

Prof Ivor Gowan
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People who want to live in London but cannot afford to or do not want to wait for years at the bottom of a council housing list, have, in recent years, taken increasingly to squatting. It is free, easy, and reasonably secure, and it offers the legal difficulties and delays that housing authorities encounter in their efforts to dislodge squatters.

If you are really lucky, you can even become a licensed squatter. In return for payment of a nominal sum to the Greater London Council or one of the other London boroughs, you can live rent-free in some of their less luxurious spare housing. The GLC has about 1,200 properties illegally occupied by squatters, but it has some 2,000 licensed squats, where people live rent-free on condition that they depart when the GLC wants the property for redevelopment.

Individual boroughs, led by Islington, can offer squats among their own properties. The number of people living illegally in GLC, local council and private accommodation in the greater London area is probably around 8,000, although everyone agrees it is a difficult figure to estimate.

Alan Hamilton has been visiting a cross-section of London squats; his first stop was in Islington, and he found the Hornsey Rise estate consists of three large blocks of flats, built around 1927 and commanding a sweeping view over north London. Two years ago the GLC, which owns the estate, began moving out and rehoused the tenants with the intention of converting the flats into high-grade council accommodation, and the squatters immediately began moving in. There are now about 250 of them, including about 30 children.

The Times Diary

A guide to the best in squatting

The GLC has taken the case of Hornsey Rise to the High Court in the hope of securing eviction orders against the entire squatting population, but is having difficulty in obtaining the necessary council tenants, it wants to serve the orders.

Being less than 50 years old, the blocks appear in reasonable structural order, apart from several leaking exterior drain pipes, and the amount of deliberate vandalism is small. But the site is littered with rotting rubbish and several abandoned cars; while I was there one squatter accepted £2 from a passing scrap dealer for an old Ford Cortina whose owner had long disappeared.

Mick, who said he used to run a fish shop in Portobello Road, occupies a three-roomed first-floor flat with a large Asian, working toilet, and a small kitchen. He admitted he did not pay for it. He had collected a few sticks of furniture, a broken-down television and a second-hand washing machine, and showed slight traces of damp but otherwise the flat was sound, if untidy, and even had most of its wallpaper intact.

In a flat in the next block were four young men and a pregnant woman. They had installed a new toilet, but had failed to make it work, and used the facilities in the empty flat next door. They had legal electricity, an ancient but serviceable cooker marked "GLC" taken from an adjoining empty flat, and carpets on

the floor. They had rewired the entire flat and repainted most of it.

Some of the Hornsey squatters, particularly those with children, want immediate rehousing as council tenants, with the normal choice of three homes as is common council practice. Others want to move to a licensed squat, and a few want to remain in Hornsey Rise with the GLC's blessing.

But on the morning I was there, one young man had had enough of the dirt and the uncertainty over council case. "Stuff this," I'm off to France," he declared struggling downstairs to a waiting van with rolls of bedding and a portable heater.

Saved

After a long campaign by conservationists, the Aggie has been saved at last. The remarkable Royal Agricultural Hall at Islington has been bought by the local council for what they regard as the bargain price of £1,200,000. Yesterday, to coincide with their formal takeover of the 44-acre site, Islington councillors led a conducted tour round the sad remains of one of the architectural jewels of London.

Built in 1861 to house the Smithfield Show, the Aggie has suffered years of neglect, and is now a windy barn of broken glass and peeling paint. Its last users, the Post Office over-

seas parcels department, abandoned it in 1971, and beneath such crumbling legends as "Barbados" and "Australian Transit Only", the damp has burrowed into its wood block floor and rusted its glam clock into an eternity of 7.27. The basic structure remains intact. The Victorian ironwork of the Main Hall still holds up one of the largest uninterrupted ceiling spans in the world, large enough to accommodate a full-size football pitch under glass. Patsy Bradbury, chairman of Islington council recreation committee, was clearly overwhelmed by the possibilities, and talked of an ice rink, a swimming pool with real palm trees, a trotting track or an exhibition hall.

Next week council officers plan to shut themselves away for an entire day to try to think up a suitable use for the Aggie, which they have already decided should be something broadly recreational (though some council members think it should make way for new flats). They might be inspired by looking at some of the hall's previous uses, which include marauding walking races. Reform Bill meetings addressed by John Stuart Mill (he could not be heard at the far end), Cruft's dog show and a flea circus.

Not an entirely happy ending to my recent saga about the disappearance of old-fashioned silver plate powder, but at least a consolation prize. Goldadors, who used to make it, still have no plans to put it back on the market, but they have made a small batch and are generously giving a free packet to all who write to me, and directly to them, lamenting its passing. Sadly, no further applications can now be considered.

diary will be more amusing than Mrs Callaghan's...



Poetic

Tulse Hill School in South London is a large comprehensive which, when it gets into the news at all, does so usually for the wrong reasons. Many of its pupils are black, and some took part in a noted fracas with the police in nearby Brockwell Park a year or two ago, which damaged race relations in the area. It is therefore pleasing to report the good and surprising news from Tulse Hill, Simon McMullen, a 15-year-old boy from Scunthorpe who has been a pupil there since he was 11, won one of the three main prizes in the national SM Young

Poet Awards. The other two winners and three runners-up were all girls.

Simon's poem is a rumbustious work about Merlin, and it took him only 15 minutes to write it. "He is steeped in the Arthurian mythology," said Alasdair Aston, inspector for English with the Inner London Education Authority and one of the judges.

He is a pleasant, contemplative boy who arrives at the school, it seems, by keeping at a distance from its most notorious aspects. "It's not easy to get on there," he admitted. "But if you want to get down to it you can, if you're really interested."

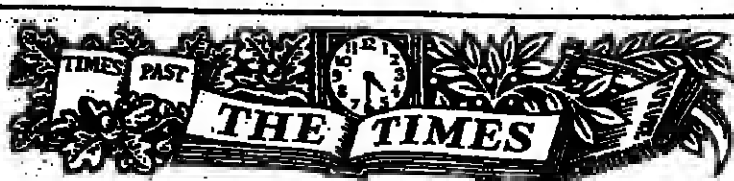
"It's not nearly as violent as people say it is, and it's much better now than it was. It's not a hive of vandalism. It's no more violent than any other school."

"I find the social life there a bit swift. It races past." But he plans to stay on for "A" levels and then go to university and he likes writing his poetry.

We are always being told that our attitudes to royalty have grown more mature in recent years, but I see no evidence of this in press coverage of Princess Margaret's separation.

The Daily Mirror, in particular, treats us to the same sniggering drivel which it has always poured out on such matters. Their reporter who visited the commune near Bath where the Princess stayed once, and its allied restaurant, wrote a piece called "A final awesome thought is that I have visited the same loo as royalty. There are two of them at the restaurant—and I went to both to make sure." Ugh!

PHS



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THE RHODESIA STATEMENT

Mr Callaghan's reply to Mr Smith's invitation to "enter Rhodesia by the front door" is to lay down preconditions, and very rightly. Mr Callaghan shows a lively respect for Mr Smith's ability to use all talks as a means for gaining time, and then, when they peter out, as a means for blaming everybody except Mr Ian Smith and the first-entrants of the Rhodesia Front party.

Before Britain will become seriously involved in mediatory efforts for the fourth time in ten years (the first three were Tiger, Rhodesia, and the Douglas-Home negotiations of 1971) Mr Smith has got to come into the open with a commitment to majority rule—meaning black rule—well within two years, or make room for somebody who is able to make such a commitment from the Prime Minister's office in Salisbury. If that does not happen, it seems clear from the Foreign Secretary's statement, the British Government will assume that the Rhodesians do not really want Britain in through the front door. If circumstances arise in which within the next few months Mr Maudling found himself in Mr Callaghan's seat, he would be very, very unwise to vary those terms—whatever line he now feels free to take.

It is not unreasonable to ask first where Mr Smith and his party stand on majority rule, for Mr Nkomo's statement on Friday, that under Mr Smith's plans majority rule would be delayed ten to 15 years, did suggest that Mr Smith at least had

come to accept majority rule in principle, but on Sunday he reneged ("not for 1,000 years") and took skilful cover behind the emotive formula "power sharing". Only when he can agree that, whatever the problems thereafter, a rapid transition to majority rule alone makes sense of current African circumstances, can the details of the timetable he worked out, and the guarantees for life, liberty and property rights of the white minority (and incidentally more than a few blacks who have assets in the white host) be worked out: there would also be a substantial British commitment to aid.

The march of events has toughened British terms for a settlement, which are very close to what is known of Mr Nkomo's. Mr Callaghan insists on an early election on a (presumably still qualified) franchise that would produce a black parliamentary majority and therefore mainly black government, and no independence until then: sanctions could be lifted, however, once it was clear that the interim administration was secure from any white counter-coup from the right. The real trouble is to make the white electorate in Rhodesia see the southern African situation in the way it appears from almost every other capital city in the world, including Pretoria. The only use of three wise men (they would have to be compellingly persuasive as well as wise) would be to enlighten the white Rhodesian mentality. Years of government control of the media and sedulous indoctrination or self-hypnosis at many levels, have

closed Rhodesian thinking to realities.

One great difficulty of the situation is that the Rhodesians believe—and not without reason, however supplemented by propaganda—that they can hold out for many years against everything that African guerrillas can throw at them. They take the view that these years are worth taking, even at a rising cost in the blood of young men on the calculation or gamble that in the present unstable world anything can happen, though they seem chiefly to have the advent of a British Conservative government in mind. To persuade them that time is against them is hard—after ten years they have had almost nothing but success, on the political, economic and military fronts.

The corollary of Mr Callaghan's statement yesterday would be to provide Mozambique and perhaps other neighbouring states, with the financial support necessary to help them sustain and tighten sanctions. If the Rhodesians took a longer view, that money could be put at their disposal to compensate those who would wish to leave under black rule and to permit development by those ready to stay and keep the economy running. The fact that we are subsidizing those who now say they are virtually at war with the white Rhodesians cannot be disguised. It might be salutary. It must still be hoped that the Rhodesians will accept Mr Callaghan's assurance that even now there is an "alternative path" to a military conflict that, however long it takes, can have only one end.

THE MASTER OF THE ASSASSINS

President Bourguiba has said that a Libyan assassination squad was sent to Tunisia with the aim of killing him or his designated successor as head of state, the Prime Minister, Mr Nouira. The men have been arrested and are said to have confessed. Of course there are reasons for scepticism about such plots; yet enmity between governments can foster the belief that if one side can kill the other's leader the situation will be transformed. Nobody can disregard actions that can be traced back to the crazily inspired regime of Colonel Gaddafi. His record of interfering in the affairs of other countries is consistent and well enough attested.

His seven years' rule in Libya offer some curious contrasts. The assassination squads sent abroad to get rid of opponents of his way of thinking remind us of the more unsavoury aspects of Stalin's rule in Russia. Internally, Colonel Gaddafi's political philosophy takes a Maoist view of the power of the masses. He believes their opinions can be harnessed so as to give authority to his actions

as the country's leader. While Colonel Gaddafi alone knows what is right for his country he sees himself as director of "plans undertaken by the people". Thus Libya is said to be passing through a somewhat obscure transition "from the revolution to the state".

Yet it is hard to think of any other country whose foreign minister has defected while on a mission abroad. Nor was that an exceptional case. Of the eleven leaders of the revolution that brought Colonel Gaddafi to power only four now remain; some contrived to get away to tell the story of his misdeeds, others were arrested when their plans to overthrow the Colonel were discovered. Prudence may now blanket a loss of enthusiasm among some of those who survive. President Sadat, who must have the largest dossier on Colonel Gaddafi both from personal contact and because Egypt is the natural resort of Libyan defectors, finds him to be "one hundred per cent sick and possessed of a demon". Did the late Mr Chou En-lai think the same when the Colonel asked to buy a nuclear bomb from the

Chinese? Many countries must be thankful that the request was unhesitatingly refused.

First on that list would be Libya's neighbours, Egypt, Sudan, Morocco and now Tunisia have all had to brace themselves against the danger from this volatile and unpredictable man. He has been an active supporter of the IRA, he has proclaimed that Israel could be destroyed within twelve hours if a sound strategy were to be used; he is a very odd man on indeed in the Arab world whose last summit gathering in Rabat he boycotted.

He survives in his own country thanks to the oil income that enables him to run a welfare state that has brought a rising standard of living to most of the Libyan population. To the common people of the country the benefits he seems to have conferred outweigh the apprehensions aroused by his idiosyncrasies. Whether he is a tyrant or a benefactor must be for them to decide. His actions outside his own country however are no matter for tolerance or to be excused on account of high-minded Islamic principle or political inspiration.

FREEDOM OF THE COUNCIL SERFS?

Council housing accommodates almost a third of the households in Britain. When the drastic proposal that it should virtually all be sold off to its occupants can be made at the same time from the political right and left, it is a sign of how far the current basis of housing policy and the conventional political alignments are seen to be inadequate. Mr Peter Walker suggested selling off the estates last year and now Mr Frank Field has published a pamphlet making the same proposal, and mildly laying claim to a priority in the idea.

Mr Walker was more specific, and more confident; Mr Field, backing as a socialist, went further than suggesting that a full investigation of the possible consequences ought to be made.

The idea of selling council houses is nothing novel in Conservative thinking, of course. But it has long been common ground between the parties that decent housing could not be brought within everybody's reach unless a substantial stock of subsidised publicly-owned homes were available for rent. It is this fundamental assumption that Mr Walker and Mr Field question, although their quarrel with the system springs more from a sense of its incidental defects than from a conviction that its basic purpose can be served by other means.

Both stress how much the cause of socialism (or of property-owning democracy) would be advanced by the vast redistribution of wealth that would occur if every council tenant became an owner-occupier. Both emphasize the havoc that debt charges and frozen rents have created in local finances. Both stress the inflexibility that a slow-moving bureaucracy imposes: Mr Field describes council tenants as "serfs" (it is mainly this perception that has led him so far from conventional Labour policy).

It is clear that owner-occupation has many advantages over council housing: fundamentally, it is what most people want. There is scope for widespread selling of council houses, and in fairness and to encourage a public good, the price and the mortgage terms should be made easy for the tenant. But that is a very different matter from the indiscriminate scattering of windfalls envisaged at least by Mr Walker.

Council tenants today are not uniformly the worst-off people in the community, and neither fairness nor public policy would be served by handing over dwellings of very disparate market values to the tenants who happen to have been living in them for twenty years, with no further payment to be made. The effect

on the private housing market—and therefore on the investment of thousands of other householders—is impossible to predict. It is pre-eminently important in housing policy that changes should not be made in one sector without taking full account of their effects elsewhere.

Whatever problems exist in the capital and revenue accounts, the publicly-owned housing stock is an inestimable economic asset. The opportunity to even out the cost of new building in expensive areas by cross-subsidy from council housing in more fortunate parts of the country has never been sufficiently investigated, and would be lost for ever under a policy of total dispersal. There are kinds of housing need that it is hard to imagine councils ever being able to meet simply by operating as mortgage-brokers. It should be possible to remedy the defects of the present system by more imaginative and flexible administrative methods, and by new forms of tenure as well as by outright sale. There is room for experiment and some sign of readiness to admit that old ways sanctioned by political dogma are not immutable. But the problem is too complex to be cured at a stroke by turning council tenants into mortgagors. As some level, the need for rented council housing is likely to endure.

Need for a common policy in southern Africa

From Mr Eldon Griffiths, Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds

Sir, Mr Callaghan's new initiative deserves support from all who want to avoid a race war in Rhodesia. It is also to be congratulated on the part played by British diplomacy in making it possible for South Africa to withdraw her troops from Angola, a move that proves, once again, that the present South African Prime Minister is a man of political courage at home as well as statesmanship in his approach to the black African states.

An equally high order of courage and statesmanship is now required from other parties. Mr Ian Smith undoubtedly has great courage. He should show it by accepting what previously he has found unacceptable, namely the principle of majority rule and the need to take immediate steps to start implementing it. Both wings of the Zimbabwe National Front, as well as Mr Nkomo, need also to show courage by advising their "freedom fighters" to call off guerrilla attacks. Only in this way can white Rhodesians be persuaded that those who aspire in the name of the black majority, are capable of controlling black violence and the threat to the white minority's lives and property.

Courage and statesmanship are needed, too, from President Kaunda who, in the past, has shown plenty of both. He alone has any chance of persuading the neighbouring African states, Mozambique, Tanzania and Botswana, to accept six to twelve months' delay while Britain does its best to work out a peaceful settlement.

The most difficult task of all is that of the British Government. Simultaneously they must provide assurances to the black states that the Rhodesians will accept majority rule relatively quickly, and assurances to the whites that it will be accompanied by enforceable safeguards against the arbitrary seizure of property, the loss of pension rights and the precipitating of Rhodesia into the same chaos that has marred black government in so many African states.

I doubt if the British Government can do all this alone. To carry out a policy of black and white in Rhodesia, they need the support of the Conservative Party. This is particularly true at a time when Labour's authority is diminished overseas by uncertainties over who is to succeed Mr Wilson. British resources, financial and otherwise, may also prove to be inadequate, constrained by a falling currency and the military demands of Ulster, Iceland and NATO.

We should not be too proud to ask for help from our EEC partners and America as well as the United Nations, which already is assisting Mozambique and Zambia. A settlement in Rhodesia, bringing an end to sanctions, would allow the economies of Central and Southern Africa to benefit from the forthright opening up of the world trade. It would also mean that the have-been embargo under the United Nations embargo. This would reduce the needs of these countries for aid which could better go to Rhodesia. The odds are probably against any peaceable settlement in Rhodesia. Too much bitterness has been built up, too many entrenched positions have been adopted by all sides—including Britain—over the past 10 years. But this is no excuse for failing to pull out all the stops to bring the slide into a war that, progressively, could engulf most of Southern Africa. The alternative to

a settlement, as Mr Vorster put it, is "too terrible to contemplate".

Yours,
ELDON GRIFFITHS,
House of Commons,
March 22.

From Dr A. G. Hopkins

Sir, With reference to Major General Bishop's letter (March 19) it seems pertinent to observe that more "black" Africans than "white" Africans fought for "freedom and democracy" in our two world wars, and that some of our "rich and kin" in Southern Africa were less than wholehearted in their support of the "free world" in its hour of need.

If the argument is to be conducted in these terms then let us be consistent in seeking to implement the principles for which ostensibly we fought, and refrain from ill-defined appeals to ethnic solidarity. Otherwise the word might just get around that we are not only inconsistent in our thinking, but less than "civilized" in our pursuit of tribal politics.

Yours,
A. G. HOPKINS,
110 Selly Park Road,
Selly Park,
Birmingham.

From Air Marshal Sir Gerald Gibbs
Sir, In the generally adverse criticism from outside Rhodesia—of what Ian Smith does and what he doesn't do, it seems to be forgotten that the Rhodesian Government is the instrument of the electorate, be it its appointed leader, and I do not think that the calculated anti-Smith psychological campaign against the Rhodesian Government will have much effect on his position.

Rhodesia is prosperous and peaceful—despite the attacks instigated upon her frontiers and perhaps drawing encouragement from the existence of United Nations sanctions. In backing their Government the Rhodesian people, both black and white, have been influenced by what they have seen at close hand in the Congo, Uganda, Mozambique, Angola, and so on. They know that the black Rhodesian rule—certainly if hurried—is a reliable recipe for widespread bloodshed and general disaster. They know also that it is not really rule by the majority at all, but by a coterie aspiring for power and the fruits of power, and usually limited to a few tribes, the members of other tribes. The real majority have in fact little or no say.

The Rhodesians know, too, that so-called "majority rule"—which ever the previous promises made by outside advisers or by the Rhodesian Government—has never been followed by the breakdown of law and the economy (helped by the Communists), the expulsion of Europeans and Asians and the consequent chaos that has befallen the Rhodesian Government for the future? It has been clearly stated by Mr Ian Smith and his colleagues. They wish that power should be shared by all responsible Rhodesians—black and white—and with the growth of African education and responsibility they aim to provide the first example of a real stable, multi-racial democracy in Africa. This will take a lot of time even though African education in Rhodesia is the best of that in the rest of Central Africa—this despite being paid for by the

whites and somewhat hampered by the United Nations economic sanctions.

The bulk of black Africans live in the tribal areas under the local rule of their traditional chiefs, but to bring fully into the parliamentary electorate all responsible educated black voters as well as white will take time. Ideologists will press for more and more, if their impatient efforts were successful they would lead to inevitable disaster as elsewhere in Central Africa.

Yours faithfully,
G. E. GIBBS,
Lone Oak,
170 Combe Lane West,
Kingston-upon-Thames.

From Mr A. B. Butler
Sir, It was with horror and incredulity that Britons like myself, who live in South Africa, learnt that the British Government intends to give financial support to the Government of Mozambique, apparently to recompense it for applying sanctions in Rhodesia. Not only is it just ill considered, whether one supports Mr Ian Smith or not, but there are many who do not, but history will prove it to be a crime against humanity.

Do the British people realize what is happening in Mozambique at the present moment? We as neighbours in South Africa, have constant access to up-to-date information about that country, apart from the world news media. Such first hand sources as refugees, returning Shanganai miners and visiting businessmen, give us an overall picture of the plight of the African people of Mozambique, which is both horrific and saddening.

Is the British Government aware that Samora Machel is regarded as a tyrant by the majority of Mozambique, in particular by the four million Makua who have never supported Frelimo? Does it know about the concentration camps for both blacks and whites, the seizure without compensation of businesses, formerly owned by Africans and Indians, let alone whites; the widespread starvation due to inept bureaucracy, the growing underground opposition to the government, the brutality, torture and repression to which opponents of Frelimo are subjected? Why has Samora Machel, if he is supposedly revered here, moved from Maputo (Laurens Marquês) to live on the nearby island of Inhaca; why does he now travel only by helicopter, whereas hitherto he always travelled in a heavily escorted car?

There are endless questions of this nature which should be considered by the British Government before they donate money that could be put to better use. It is doubtful if they know the truthful answers, but if they do, and still persist in donating money, they have a duty to inform British taxpayers exactly what sort of a regime their money will support and why it should do so; a regime every bit as evil and oppressive as that of Hitler. I did Alan any other megalomaniac. Government I am bitterly opposed to my contribution being used to assist murderers in a punitive act against Rhodesians, who have never been treated as they are by Frelimo today.

Yours faithfully,
A. B. BUTLER,
St Johns College, Houghton,
Johannesburg,
South Africa.

Place of cycling in transport policy

From Dr Ronald Williams

Sir, Sir Colin Buchanan in his letter of March 20 writes: "The vast and intricate web of movement which is woven daily as people go about their affairs, and goods are shifted and services are discharged, is bound to remain dependent upon three methods of transport—walking, the motor vehicle, and, to a limited extent, railways."

Astonishingly, he omits the one machine which, for people going about their affairs in cities is faster and quieter than all of these, and incomparably cleaner and more flexible than the last two as well as being only one fifth as expensive in energy. It costs less than a half-penny per mile to run and increases our overseas debts hardly at all—seemingly important advantages to our nation in its present state. It is known to some people as the bicycle.

Why is this machine still so largely ignored by the planners? We have got to face sometime the increasing pollution of our atmosphere and the unheeding burning up in a few generations of fossil resources laid down over aeons.

But woe be to the minister who underestimates the power and versatility of the motor vehicle in all its diverse forms. This merely is the lesson which shrieks to heaven from the spectacles of the past 50 years. The right word, surely, is reeks not shrieks.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD WILLIAMS,
16 Carlyle Square, SW3,
March 21.

Mr Wilson's successor

From Mr S. H. Pierce

Sir, You were interested enough, at the time of the Conservative Party leadership contest between Margaret Thatcher and Edward Heath, to publish—under the heading "Labour's choice"—my letter expressing preference for the former as an even more certain vote-loser for the Conservative Party, than the latter.

If your interest extends to publishing views of working-class (and I mean in the real sense of one whose clogs rattled him to school, and first job, almost 50 years ago) Labour voter on the issue of Harold Wilson's successor, I believe I would be echoing the hopes of millions of above-parity supporters fervently wishing success to Michael Foot.

Prediction as to the actual successor to Harold Wilson is, of course, quite a different matter; but it is fair to say that Michael Foot will be the most formidable and hand-picked of Roy Jenkins' adverse weighing, the predictable espousing of the Home Secretary's nomination by Mr Bernard Levin and—almost as insurmountable a political obstacle—The Times editorial board.

The more thoughtful members of the CBI, bearing in mind Michael Foot's tremendous influence in reconciling trade union leaders to policies repugnant to their basic political beliefs, must, if their constant recitations of the prime necessity for smooth interaction between the Government and industry are genuine, be just as earnestly hoping to see Michael Foot being interviewed by Peter Jay in two weeks' time at the political summit, as millions of more humble Michael Foot well-wishers.

Yours sincerely,
S. H. PIERCE,
10 Roman Road,
Royton, Oldham.

Freedom of taste

From Mr David Holbrook

Sir, The European Community is surely intended to bring us benefits. It is a pity that the farmers' discussion of the new arrangements to use dried-milk-powder, on the radio, it seems they are bewildered by what seems simply a bureaucratic piece of administrative nonsense, which, it seems, they have accepted. At the beginning of our participation, it ought to be made clear that we are not going to stand for certain idiocies of this kind. There is no doubt whatever, for example, that dried milk or frozen chicken or turkeys are nastier than fresh ones. Apart from the health risk from salmonella infection, we are not prepared, as a nation, to be deprived by silly legislation of the opportunity, the lesser good (at a time when people are also discovering that real beer, real bread, and other properly prepared commodities are most desirable).

As it is a question of persuading our own Parliament about public taste in these matters there would be no problem. It is now the time to impress our views on Brussels, not to make it plain that the Community administrators are our servants, and that there are certain deprivations we will not accept.

Yours,
DAVID HOLBROOK,
Longacre,
Haverhill Road,
Stapleford, Cambridge.
March 18.

Recovery of Germany

From Mr Stephen Schattmann

Sir, Mr Eirelli Eirelli (The Times, March 19) is done well to explode the myth of the supposed destruction of German industry during World War II and its reequipment with Marshall Aid funds. He states that Germany received only some two-thirds of the Marshall Aid received by Britain.

But there is a striking difference in which the counterpart funds (domestic payments for goods supplied under Marshall Aid) were used by the two countries. Germany placed them with a government agency organized as a bank, which has played a major role as the source of funds for the housing programme and other forms of public works and only last year provided part of the finance for Chancellor Schmidt's limited pump-priming exercise.

In Britain, which I believe was the only recipient country to act in this way, counterpart funds were

used to write down the National Debt, that is they vanished from sight. No doubt, this was in line with the Treasury's policy of keeping the public purse as tight as possible, but it is surprising that a Labour Administration then in power did not grasp the opportunity of a National Investment Fund provided by the generosity of the American people.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN SCHATTMANN,
65C Wigmore Street, W1,
March 18.

The British Library

From Dr R. K. Collow, FRS

Sir, The increasing volume (if not quality) of criticism of the British Library by your correspondents (March 18, 19 and 19) provokes me, as a one-time member of the advisory committee, to draw attention to some alternative views. I am shocked to read the criticism that "librarian and reader needs are antipathetic".

I have the greatest respect for librarians and I have never known one who did not put the interest of readers paramount—that is their business and aim in life. I say "readers", not individuals with unusual demands. On the fringe of these are facilities for meditation, aesthetic appreciation of their architecture and surroundings and nostalgia for fancied designs for terrorism by Marx, Lenin and Trotsky under Paniz's dome.

One would think, from this correspondence, that the planning of the British Library was simply a plot to destroy the British Museum Reading Room rather than an imaginative and major contribution to the organization of information in the fields of art, history, literature, science and technology.

To the best of my belief Paniz's dome will remain to be contemplated in—or for other purposes. The scheme for the British Library, which does exist, in spite of Mr Collis's wilful blindness, has been discussed at length for some years—since the Report of the Libraries Committee in 1969 (Cmd 4028) and the plans should be as no surprise. The proposed new organization of our immense inheritance of books (which have outgrown their nineteenth-century clothes) should stimulate and enrich rather than capricious criticism. The British Library is desperately seeking a home, but, unfortunately, the sufficient obstacles are put in its way it looks as if it would suffer from that new English disease of planning blight that inhibits all major progress these days.

Yours sincerely,
R. K. COLLOW,
39 Heaton Wood Lane, NW7,
March 19.

Religious education

From Dr Harry V. Stopes-Roe

Sir, The campaign against the British Humanist Association's proposals for the reform of religious education is based upon serious distortion of our position. We are not seeking to ban religious education. On the contrary, we are committed to the serious discussion of serious questions, to "deepening insight and understanding" and to "effecting a new synthesis". The title of our booklet (our proposals refer only to county schools) Objective, Fair and Balanced makes clear our basic conception. It obviously includes a major study of Christ in particular, and religion in general. Our point is that the non-religious insights and answers cannot be looked upon as merely peripheral.

We wish to join with the many others who are concerned for the valuable contribution that RE could make if it were reformed. Our initial position in this dialogue is that the curricular content for the study of ultimate issues must be objective, fair and balanced; that children should be informed and also in the process of growing into a stance for living (religious or naturalistic) which is their own. We, quite explicitly, do not pre-judge what these principles mean in practice; this must be worked out cooperatively by those who have education, not sectarian advantage, as the basis of their thought.

"Education" is a prestige-word, and each person seeks to appropriate it. There are also certain facts, however. One fundamental fact is that the present law is incompatible with the conception of education implicit above, for it requires instruction in religion. The recent wrangle in Birmingham turned on this point; a genuinely open syllabus was replaced by one which nurtures religion at the expense of alternatives.

If one's view of education is predicated on sectarian privilege, then of course this is "good education". On no other basis can it be truly said that the 1944 Act is "capable of meeting the implications of today's multi-racial and multi-faith society", as you report the Under-Secretary for Education having said in the House. Do we really have to continue the nineteenth-century battle for the equality of faiths before the law? Can we not work together for the enhancement of values?

Yours faithfully,
HARRY V. STOPES-ROE, Chairman,
British Humanist Association,
13 Prince of Wales Terrace, W8,
March 21.

National Theatre tickets

From Mr Stanley Alderson

Sir, We are told, "The National Theatre is yours". Would the National Theatre therefore justify the feeling of segregation for the theatre-going habit is perpetuated by offering privileged prices of admission to students in opposition (principally) to other young people? Surely this is part of a pattern of culture which should be seen to be discarded by the theatre together with red plush, gilt and cupid. Young people expect to buy a ticket for public entertainment—a film, a pop concert, a football match, and so on—without discrimination at the box office. What is special or unique about a play?

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY ALDERSON,
7 Highfield Avenue,
Cambridge.

'Dear Reverend'

From Canon Allan Shaw

Sir, There are degrees of reverence. When I was a Dean and very reverend I once wrote a letter addressed to "The Very Shaw". I thought they took some beating.

However, it was bettered by the prelate Bishop of Lincoln. He once told me that he had received a letter directed to "The Right Phipps".

Yours obediently,
ALLAN SHAW,
The Canon's House,
Hereford.

Appeal against planning

From Mr Victor Moore

Sir, Mr Barry Payton's cry of anguish following the Court of Appeal's decision in *ex parte Ostler* (letter, March 19) is likely to have been one of very many.

The six-week rule as it is so called, which prevents an individual from challenging a ministerial decision in the courts after that period has elapsed, has been a feature of public law for many years. It is, of course, justified, namely, that once the acquisition of land has taken place, no legal action should be allowed which would prevent the use of the land for the purpose for which it was acquired. In 1956 in *Smith v East Elloch RDC*, the House of Lords considered the rule and held that they had no jurisdiction to quash a compulsory purchase order made in respect of land out of time, even though the application was based on an allegation of fraud.

After the decision of the same House in the *Ambridge* case in 1963, there arose a hope that the courts would not continue to be so hamstrung and that at last a way had been found to enable the courts to supervise the actions of the executive even when legislation had seemingly excluded them from doing so. That hope has now been dashed as a result of the *Ostler* decision in respect of all areas where the six-week rule applies, and with the consequences to which Mr Payton rightly draws attention.

The consequences, however, are much greater than even he states, since the six-week rule applies not only to ministerial decisions relating to roads, but also to most planning decisions taken by a minister, and increasingly so in the future to the confirmation of compulsory purchase orders made in respect of development land acquired by public authorities under the Community Land Act, 1975.

As in *Smith v East Elloch RDC*, the *Ostler* case was also based on an allegation of fraud. Yet there are many varieties of improper action falling short of fraud and one can only speculate on the number of cases where impropriety would have been alleged had judicial remedy been available for a longer term than six weeks.

What the *Ostler* decision really underlines, therefore, is the continuing need for a thorough investigation into the legal machinery for the control of the administration, including the whole field of remedies for improper action. Only when this has been done will it be seen that the balance between the individual and the state is being fairly held.

Yours faithfully,
VICTOR MOORE, Senior Lecturer in Law,
The University, Whiteknights,
Reading,
Berkshire,
March 20.

NCR
Computers & Terminals


Food industry to offer control on profits instead of Price Code

By Clayton

Food processors are about to offer the Government a blueprint for abolition of the Code, Sir Guy Lawrence, president of the Food and Drink Federation, said yesterday. He wants the day-to-day of prices to cease altogether.

He is not going for a return to the free market because we recognize that consumers are hard-pressed. We ought to give assurance that we will not go to details, but it is understood that a dual offer will be made to the Government on Friday.

He confirmed the outline will be made to ministers. It will be made to the central authority any time they make a decision, he said for 1976-77.

The new offer involves changes from the present system of price control. It would allow retrospective control of margins by unspecified bodies, but the present quarterly by the Price Commission.

He wants simply to notify the Government of any rise in prices again it does so to whom—instead of to ask the commission.

Controls on capital goods producers may be eased

By Commercial Editor

The new Code of Control of Price Code controls on capital goods producers, including machine tools, engineering and similar heavy industry, is believed to be under consideration by the Government.

It could benefit some of the industries, notably the motor industry, but other manufacturers, including those in the consumer durables, would be affected, or would the food industry.

The plan is one of several being considered for a overhaul of the code. It is statutory life code on 31.

It would remove the costs of the code from manufacturers and services.

World optimism rises over strength of US recovery

By Frank Vogel

Washington, March 22

Consumer prices are widely expected to rise by more than 7 per cent in the end of this year, the Federal Reserve Board said yesterday. It is an increasingly optimistic view of the economy's performance and because of this confidence, coupled with a host of other factors, support for the new fiscal year is weakening.

Dr Arthur Burns, chairman of the Federal Reserve system, said in a Senate hearing yesterday that conditions were favourable for further expansion and that the Fed had no intention of altering its moderate monetary policies. He warned the committee that taking action to stimulate the economy further would be inflationary and could revive the price spiral.

Latest official statistics show a 0.1 per cent rise in the latest monthly gain in 4.1 per cent, while orders for durable goods rose 2.4 per cent, the largest such growth in seven months.

Business profits in the first three months of 1975 registered their third consecutive quarterly increase, reaching their second highest level.

Mr Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, summed up the new confidence in the Administration when he told the joint session of Congress on Friday that the recovery was proceeding at a pace "obviously well in excess of our forecast and everyone else's."

The strength of the recovery is being seen by many economists as a key factor behind the troubles of sterling, the French franc and the lira.

Economists at Manufacturers Hanover Trust say in a report that because of American success in reducing inflation "in terms of purchasing power parity, all three (pound, franc and lira) seem to be overvalued relative to the dollar."

They add that further declines in the values of these three currencies against the dollar "should not be ruled out."

Greatly encouraged about the pace of United States economic recovery, and they note that the long-standing construction industry at last appears to be improving significantly.

Shah of Iran refuses meeting with oil chiefs

By Roger Violeux

The Shah of Iran declined to give an audience to Mr David Steel, chairman of British Petroleum and the heads of Texaco and Standard Oil of California (Socal), while the three oil company chiefs were in Tehran.

All three companies are members of the consortium that made the initiative for a summit in their efforts to revise the 1973 contract under which it purchases the bulk of Iran's oil output.

According to the influential *Petroleum Intelligence Weekly*, the Shah declined to give an audience to the three executives on the grounds that it was not needed in the present circumstances.

The consortium has given the Iranians a "short, vague document" described by *PW* as something half way between a declaration of intent and a proposed agenda for talks about revising the 1973 agreement which are now due to resume on April 21.

On the key issue of oil lifelines *PW* says the companies have proposed an important change from the 1973 agreement. The document proposes that "NIOC will sell and members will commit to buy unspecified quantities subject to terms and conditions to be negotiated."

The 1973 contract specifies only the "stated quantities" to be set aside for export sale by NIOC. *PW* says the Iranians consider this a "step in the right direction" and have agreed to continue financing the consortium's 40 per cent share of investment costs for March and April, they did so in January and February.

Phillips expects boost from Ekofisk field

By Barleesville, Oklahoma, March 22

Production of crude oil from the Ekofisk field in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea will probably average 100,000 barrels a day this year compared with last year's average of 190,000 barrels daily, according to Mr William Douce, president and chief operating officer of Phillips Petroleum.

Phillips, America's eleventh largest oil company, operates the Ekofisk production group in which it owns a 37 per cent interest. Gross Ekofisk production for February had averaged 275,000 barrels a day. —AP-Dow Jones.

US companies to invest \$105m on Irish factories

New York, March 22.—Six American companies had decided to establish manufacturing facilities in Ireland with a total investment of \$105m (about £33m), Mr Liam Cosgrave, Ireland's Prime Minister, said here today.

The plants would create 3,000 new jobs in Ireland.

Mr Cosgrave said the United States concerns would be exempt from paying taxes on profits from export sales until 1990. A further incentive for American investment was the availability of cash grants for capital investment from the Irish Industrial Development Authority.

The American companies include:

- Thermo King Corporation, a subsidiary of Westinghouse Electric, which will manufacture truck and bus refrigeration and air conditioning units in Galway;
- Blue Bell Inc, which will manufacture denim jeans in Co Mayo;
- Analog Devices Inc, which will make integrated circuits in Limerick; and
- A. O. Smith Corporation, which will produce electric motors in Co Wicklow. —AP-Dow Jones.

Mr Matthews leaves FNFC board

By Margaret Walters

Mr Pat Matthews yesterday resigned officially from the board of First National Finance Corporation, the secondary banking group of which he was the main architect.

This move was foreshadowed at FNFC's annual meeting earlier this year when it was announced that the original 16-man board would be reduced by around half.

Since May, 1975, Mr Matthews has shared his responsibilities as executive managing director with Mr Maurice Denton, a deputy general manager, according to FNFC from the National Westminster bank, which has taken the key role in the rescue of the group.

This followed the strengthening of the FNFC board by the appointment of a number of clearing bankers. Mr Denton carries on as sole managing director.

A short statement issued yesterday by Mr Matthews, said: "I am naturally sad to be leaving FNFC after such a long association with it, but with its reorganization confirmed and well in hand, I believe that this is now the time for me to step down."

When Mr Denton first joined the company, I thought it right to step down and do all I could to help in achieving a satisfactory bandover. I consider this responsibility has now been discharged."

Mr Denton said yesterday that the terms of Mr Matthews' compensation were still being negotiated. Dr Basil Bard, the first of the seven FNFC directors to leave, received about £40,000 earlier this month. Mr Matthews' five year service contract runs to October, 1978, at an annual salary of £25,000.

The Matthews family is understood still to hold its 5 per cent shareholding in FNFC, although the option granted to Mrs Matthews in July last year to take up 1.5m shares at 5p each has not yet been exercised. The shares, which soared to a peak of 35p in 1971, were only 2p on the stock market yesterday.

The history of FNFC's build-up, under Mr Matthews, from a small "shell" company called Birmingham Carriage & Wagon in 1960 to one of the largest combines in the secondary banking and property market was punctuated with a number of controversial sagas over the years.

In 1972 there was criticism of its activities in the flat break-up market as the group bought and quickly tried to resell large blocks, mainly in well-favoured London residential areas.

FNFC played a prominent role in late 1973, in the rescue of London & County Securities before it was realized that the collapse in the secondary banking sector would eventually affect even the largest groups.

This may have been the most significant factor in FNFC's own survival. Once the Bank of England's "lifeboat" team had decided to bolster the group, support funds reached £350m. Losses have been around £150m over the last two years, mainly in its property business.



Mr Pat Matthews: Sad to be leaving.

Weaker currencies advance as market surprises speculators

From Peter Norman

March 22

Absence of monetary decisions at the weekend, caught the foreign exchange market in Frankfurt by surprise today, and this led to a strong technical recovery of currencies that had been under pressure last week against the Deutsche mark.

Once speculators had to pay for not taking seriously statements from central bankers and politicians that the currency relationships within the European floating block would stay unchanged.

In Frankfurt, both the Belgian franc and the Danish crown—which spent the last week pinned at their respective lower intervention points against the mark—advanced strongly over the day, indicating that some operators were caught in a bear squeeze.

The franc was fixed at DM6.4930 per 100 francs against its lower intervention point of DM6.47 and gained in the afternoon to around DM6.56 at one point.

The Danish crown, after opening at its lower intervention point of DM4.54 to the 100 crowns, recovered with little help from the West German federal bank to be fixed at DM4.575. In the afternoon it was being quoted around 40 pfennigs above its mark floor.

Also recovering from its late weakness on Friday afternoon was the dollar. It was fixed at DM2.5408, with the federal bank buying \$10.85m to stabilize supply and demand. In the afternoon it held steady, closing around DM2.5390/2.5400.

However, dealers were doubtful whether today's calmer atmosphere on currency markets would prove to be more than a temporary respite.

Slight Italian recovery: Banca di Roma says in a monthly newsletter published yesterday that the Italian economy has shown signs of a slight recovery, but that continuing uncertainty makes prognosis difficult.

The bank, which is 89.2 per cent owned by the Italian government, says that production has increased, especially in the car sector, sales are up and unsold stocks have declined.

Consent has been refused by the Takeover Panel to an inter-director share sale at Norwest Holst, the troubled Lancashire-based civil engineering and building group.

In an announcement last night, the Panel gave its decision to block the sale by the Le Mare family of their 12 per cent share stake in Norwest to Mr A. J. L. Lilley and Mr R. Slater.

Mr Lilley and Mr Slater are both directors of Norwest, and as part of a consortium comprising First National Finance Corporation subsidiaries and the Slater Walker controlled Direct Spanish Telegraph, they control 35.4 per cent of Norwest's equity.

The shares of Norwest, which last year reported a £4m pre-tax loss, have been buoyed up by takeover speculation since last December's annual general meeting, when Mr D. B. Le Mare, the group's chairman, announced that "conditional agreement has been reached between the Le Mare family and others to sell their shares..." to Messrs Slater and Lilley.

Yesterday Norwest's shares closed unchanged at 44p before news of the Takeover Panel's decision reached the market.

Panel vetoes Norwest share sale

By Our Financial Staff

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Sterling drifts to its lowest level

By Our Economics Staff

On calm foreign exchanges the pound's floating devaluation to 2.5390 against the dollar increased yesterday to 33.9 per cent—its lowest level—compared with 33.8 per cent on Friday night (December 1971, base date).

However, against the dollar, the pound was virtually unchanged, closing at \$1.9210, down five points.

After the disturbances of recent weeks, markets were quiet and subdued. Currencies like the Belgian franc and Danish crown, which have recently been very weak, advanced steadily, while the Deutsche mark and the Swiss franc lost ground.

Dealers suggested that the monetary authorities in these countries might have taken the opportunity of quiet markets to push their currencies to the desired direction. It was this general movement that caused sterling's overall devaluation rate to worsen slightly.

The lira continued to recover after its very sharp drop in the middle of last week, closing at 847 to the dollar, compared with 880 a few days ago. The French franc was virtually unchanged against the dollar.

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Engineers' council in talks with ASTMS

By Derek Harris

The Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs has opened informal discussions with the Council of Engineering Institutions about ASTMS' withdrawal from the Engineering Council, which comprises the 15 chartered bodies in engineering, recently urged the 200,000 professional engineers not yet members of a trade union to consider joining one.

But a C.E.I. working party, unable to recommend ASTMS to their members because the union did not appear to meet C.E.I. criteria.

Mr Tony Dummett, who chaired the working party and is chairman of C.E.I., commented at the time: "So far as I know they do not subscribe to a professional role of conduct."

ASTMS are believed to want to campaign to recruit more professional engineers. One of their arguments is that in practical terms the ways they pursue better wages and conditions, including strike action, should not conflict with a professional man's ethical or public responsibility.

The meeting with C.E.I. was to explore how far ASTMS in fact meets the professional criteria, and if some backing may be forthcoming.

A body of opinion in some institutions has wanted to establish a link with an active union like ASTMS, but the union's militancy under Mr Oliver Jenkins, its general secretary, has also created considerable antipathy.

The C.E.I. working party said it would conditionally be prepared to recommend as a suitable union one that is like ASTMS, affiliated to the TUC. This is the Electrical Power Engineers' Association, but C.E.I. is waiting to see whether, at its April annual conference, the EPEA decides to open its doors to professional engineers in other industries.

Three non-TUC affiliated organizations which have already met C.E.I. criteria and been recommended to professional engineers are: the United Kingdom Association of Professional Engineers, the Association of Supervisory and Executive Engineers and the Association of Professional Scientists and Technologists.

A trial of strength is beginning among these organizations in the attempt to get uncommitted professional engineers.

BP in protein deal with Venezuela

By Our Energy Correspondent

British Petroleum and Venezuela state and private interests are to go ahead with the development of a plant capable of producing 100,000 tons of protein a year from oil.

Technology pioneered by BP will be used for the plant costing between £40m and £60m at Puerto La Cruz in eastern Venezuela. It is expected to be completed early in 1979 and the output will be used for animal feedstocks.

BP has had considerable success in developing the protein from oil process, which has attracted the attention of several members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, including Saudi Arabia.

The go-ahead for the plant follows feasibility studies. The shareholders of Bio Proteinas de Venezuela, in which the government has a 60 per cent holding, BP 20 per cent and private animal feed compounders 20 per cent, have agreed to increase the share capital of the company to finance the next stage of the project.

Smme and Webster have been selected as the contractors for the protein plant and Technipetrol are to build the ancillary plant for extracting the paraffins from crude oil needed in the process.

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"We shall expect to maintain profits by further increasing our turnover... and expanding our outlets at home and abroad"

Mr. David Whitby, Chairman, in his review of the year to 31st January, 1976.

We have continued to make good progress and resources have again been substantially strengthened. We have therefore restored our dividend to what we regard as its normal level after making transfers to our reserves.

For the second year running we have made a new record for the intake and turnover of all types of bills. However, we are still not sufficiently confident of the outlook beyond the Budget to commit our funds to the bond market on more than a very temporary basis.

Kirkland-Whittaker's foreign exchange and currency deposits have continued to produce a good income, and good profits have again been earned in Europe, particularly in Holland and Luxembourg. The Group has extended its operation in the Far and Middle East and now has a new agency association operating with encouraging prospects in North America.

Gillett Investments Limited's main interest lies in the development of new money markets and it holds a number of investments in overseas discount companies and financial institutions. Some of these companies, being young, are still in the essential early stage of building resources but all are earning profits.

In Dubai, United Arab Emirates, our name and reputation are now well established and we have dealt since the beginning of April through the London market with an increasing number of local banks in several Arab states.

Narrower margins on bills may persist but we shall expect to maintain profits by further increasing our turnover in all types of paper and expanding our outlets at home and abroad. Apart from occasional and very temporary investment in the Government bond market we expect to confine our bond policy to active jobbing.

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Results in Brief	1976	1975
Profit	£550,461	£911,581
Ordinary Dividend for the year	13.00%	6.70%
Capital and Reserves	£3,381,571	£2,603,223
Total assets	£186,882,034	£157,895,042

Gillett Brothers Discount Company Limited



How the markets moved

Rises	Falls
Aeron's & Gen 2p to 15p	Anglo Am Coal 10p to 37p
Barlow Rand 2p to 15p	Bees & Dids 20p to 21p
Cater Flyder 2p to 20p	Barclays Bank 2p to 31p
Deumid 2p to 22p	Barclays Bank 2p to 31p
Hall-Thermom 2p to 24p	Barclays Bank 2p to 31p
Leath & E 2p to 30p	Barclays Bank 2p to 31p
Vimor Fin 2p to 30p	Barclays Bank 2p to 31p

THE POUND

Bank	Bank
Australia 3 36.25	Bank of England 1.9210
Austria 3 34.25	Bank of France 1.9210
Belgium 3 34.25	Bank of Germany 1.9210
Canada 3 34.25	Bank of Italy 1.9210
Denmark 3 34.25	Bank of Japan 1.9210
Finland 3 34.25	Bank of Netherlands 1.9210
France 3 34.25	Bank of Norway 1.9210
Germany 3 34.25	Bank of Sweden 1.9210
Greece 3 34.25	Bank of Switzerland 1.9210
Hong Kong 3 34.25	Bank of Taiwan 1.9210
India 3 34.25	Bank of Thailand 1.9210
Japan 3 34.25	Bank of Turkey 1.9210
Netherlands 3 34.25	Bank of USA 1.9210
Norway 3 34.25	Bank of West Germany 1.9210
Portugal 3 34.25	Bank of Yugoslavia 1.9210
S Africa 3 34.25	
Spain 3 34.25	
Sweden 3 34.25	
Switzerland 3 34.25	
Taiwan 3 34.25	
Thailand 3 34.25	
Turkey 3 34.25	
USA 3 34.25	
West Germany 3 34.25	
Yugoslavia 3 34.25	

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Housing policies are 'ineffective'

By Margaret Stone

Government intervention in the housing market to achieve social objectives was attacked by the Building Societies Association in the evidence, published yesterday, it has submitted to the Housing Finance Review.

Discussing the preferential treatment of different sectors of the community have received in the past (such as the £80m made available to hold down council rents last July, the association says: "If the Government feels that income should be redistributed from the rich to the poor, the simple

and effective way to do this is through the tax and social security systems, as is already being achieved."

"In attempting to discover the type of housing that the poor spend much money on and to subsidize these is a roundabout method of performing a relatively simple task."

It is also ineffective because of the "tremendous overlap" between council tenants and owner occupiers in respect of income and other socio-economic factors.

The association attacks "the ineffectiveness and arbitrariness of attempting to use housing policy to achieve

economic, social and political objectives."

It adds, "Frequently well-intentioned policies work to the detriment of the people they are intended to help, because of the peculiar characteristics of the housing market. The durable nature of dwellings means that the housing market is unique in that the second-hand market must be seen as a ladder. People join at the bottom end; they move slowly upwards until old age when they may move down again. Eventually they die and leave the ladder completely."

The association stresses that a solution for the first-time buyers' problems is not a complete answer. Only a quarter at most of first-time buyers buy a new dwelling and the bulk of the remainder buy houses from people who are moving."

Further distortions occur when the Government interferes with the market mechanism in respect of mortgage interest rates, which have "regrettably" become a "political sacred cow."

It is far better, says the report, "to be able to obtain mortgages at 11 per cent than not to be able to obtain them at 9 per cent."

\$1,300m loans to Italy and Ireland oversubscribed

From David Cross

Brussels, March 22

Loans totalling a record \$1,300m (about £650m) raised for Italy and Ireland on the European capital market reflected banking confidence in Europe's economic strength, Herr Wilfried Guth, of the Deutsche Bank, said today.

Moreover, the European capital market had fully demonstrated its ability to compete with its American counterpart in large-scale financing operations. Indeed, all the loans had been oversubscribed.

Herr Guth, whose bank headed one of the consortia

which arranged the loans, said the "first-rate" terms of the bond issues were convincing proof that the Community had been accepted by the market as a first class borrower.

He announced that a \$300m loan over six years would carry a fixed 8.25 per cent interest rate, while the interest rate on a second loan for DM500m (about £100m) was being fixed at 7.25 per cent.

A third instalment of \$300m which has been organized by the London-based European Banking Company, will be repayable over five years at a variable interest rate of 1 per cent above the average inter-bank level.

Defence ministry urged to bring forward ship orders

By Peter Hill

Industrial Correspondent

Pressure is growing in the Ministry of Defence to bring forward orders for vessels other than warships to help British shipyards, which need orders urgently if employment is to be kept at present levels beyond the middle of next year.

The Government is well aware of the problems and discussions have been taking place between the industry, Whitehall and the organizing committee of British Shipbuilders on measures which could help shipbuilding over its difficulties.

Preliminary studies are under way to see to what extent non-warship naval orders can be

brought forward to fill gaps in order books.

But the Government is already involved in cutting back defence spending, and it seems unlikely that any measures will be produced for some weeks. Another round of talks is scheduled to take place between leaders of the shipbuilding industry and the General Council of British Shipbuilding.

The shipowners' organization is also to have talks with ministers and senior officials of the Departments of Industry and Trade on ways of persuading British owners to bring forward their new order programmes and placing more of them with United Kingdom yards.

£25m Oman radar system deal for BAC

A contract worth £25m to provide a radar and communications system for the Oman department of defence has been won by the British Aircraft Corporation guided weapons division.

About £15m of the order goes to GEC-Marconi Electronic companies, who are sub-contractors to BAC.

The system will be integrated with those built into the Jaguar strike fighter and the Rapier low-level air defence missile which BAC have already sold to Oman.

BAC are responsible for a £300m defence support contract for the Royal Saudi air force. The corporation have 2,000 staff in Saudi Arabia.

Pakistan to build £262m nuclear plant

Pakistan will shortly call for tenders for its projected 600 megawatt nuclear power plant, the chairman of the Pakistan atomic energy commission, Mr Mune Ahmed Khan, said yesterday.

Several Western companies have apparently shown interest in supplying the nuclear plant which is expected to cost \$527m (about £262m) of which \$222m will be in foreign currencies.

Mowlem wins £10m order

Two housing contracts together worth more than £10m have been won by Mowlem (Building). The first for the Greater London Council is for 414 flats and maisonettes in 19 blocks at Bells Garden Road, Southwark. The other is for 358 two and three storey homes at Turreford Springs, Hertfordshire, for the Borough of Broxbourne.

Saudi oil assurance

King Khalid of Saudi Arabia said yesterday his country will continue to make use of the expertise of foreign oil companies after the state takeover of the Arabian American Oil Co. "Until the technical infrastructure necessary is available to operate this vital enterprise."

90,000 seek £6 rise

Pay claims covering nearly 90,000 workers in the heavy chemical, plastics and pharmaceutical industries, are being submitted to the employers, the General Municipal Workers Union said yesterday.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Textile import curbs are no answer

From Mr N. A. Bilitch

Sir, The chairman of Carrington Vytella is not lacking in the finer arts of sophistry. You report him (March 18) as advocating "the imposition of effective controls on cheap imports" of textiles from developing countries, and that this has been accompanied by a United Kingdom "deficit on textile and clothing trade with the main Asian supplier", which has led to a situation where, "the United Kingdom can no longer afford this kind of unreciprocated liberality" - whatever that is supposed to mean.

What is it he would have us believe? That the Asians are supplying us with clothes and textiles valued at millions of pounds for nothing? That, in order to bolster up the figures for their export trade, vast quantities of clothes and textiles are being shipped to 'the United Kingdom' for which they do not expect to be paid in money, or goods of which they have need?

Mr Leonard Regan then goes on to develop his sophisticated advocacy of protection for domestic textiles by asserting "We are not looking for the taxpayers' money. All that we are seeking is effective control of imports." Who is Mr Regan fooling - himself or the taxpayer?

The latter, in case Mr Regan has overlooked the fact, is also

the consumer of textiles, and that import controls will, if they have the effect Mr Regan desires, divert money from the taxpayer's pocket through higher prices, not into the Kingdom textile manufacturers' profit and loss accounts. That it may be a "voluntary" tax on consumers is a different matter; import controls are designed to raise prices for the benefit of producers at the expense of consumers.

If the consumer volunteers not to pay the increased prices for domestically produced textiles, then Mr Regan and his associates will be no better off - in fact they are likely to be much worse off - and the poor consumer will then have no money to buy his old clothes; in beggarly competition and the maligned Asian, we shall be, as usual, the poorer.

In this bi-centenary year of the publication of *The Wealth of Nations*, the most apt quotation from Adam Smith's shrewd pen that comes to mind and which succinctly sums up Mr Regan's alleged heresy is that import controls would bring about, states:

"Those who first taught it were by no means such fools as they who believed it."

Yours faithfully,
N. A. BILITCH
6 Rushmore Road,
Putney,
London SW15.

No need for subsidy on this rail line

From Mr D. V. Ellison

Sir, In reply to Mr Cross's letter of February 18, his expressed support for our service between London and the National Exhibition Centre is greatly appreciated. I must, however, query the logic behind his request for government subsidisation for this service.

The London - Birmingham route has one of our top great services and we are fully trained to capacity at price which are profitable to us. This service is also one of those where the "first class" accommodation is sold before the 2nd. Additionally, the existing value of standing makes it prices we charge increasing attractive to customers arriving from overseas.

The answer simply is, we subsidize reduced prices on service where the market will pay the full rate, at a time when, as an industry, we are requested to reduce the financial support received from central government?

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS ELLISON,
Chief Passenger Marketing Manager,
British Railways Board,
222 Marylebone Road,
London NW1 6JJ,
March 2.

A wage earner's view of a gold handshake

From Mr P. Reed

Sir, I hope Colonel de Lij ("Golden Handshake" *Emotive Social Issue*, Mar. 16) read of the Bank annual meeting in today's *Business News*. You report that, in reference to the £150,000 to be paid to the former managing director, Sir John Davis "of that Mr Dawson had failed to carry out his duties assigned to him under his contract".

In the light of this, Colonel de Lij may agree that it is not surprising that golden handshakes are very much an emotive social issue for a wage earner dismissed for failing to carry out his duties would be lucky to get as much as a week's wages in lieu of notice.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL REED,
Shepherd Spring,
Amport,
Andover SP11 8BE,
March 17.

ICL gains favourable terms for Singer deal

Britain's International Computers appears to have gained extremely favourable terms in its acquisition of the international operations of the business machines division of Singer, announced last week.

For six months ICL will manage these operations on behalf of Singer, so acquiring a comprehensive knowledge of the business before assuming any financial risk and before deciding exactly what proportion of the business is to be taken over.

Details of the deal were given yesterday by Mr Tom Hudson and Mr Geoffrey Cross, chairman and managing director of ICL respectively. The main object of the acquisition, they indicated, was to gain access to the customer base of existing Singer small computers - about 1,300 users of Singer System 10 machines (plus users of other types) to add to ICL's existing base of about 3,400 computer users.

ICL would be making over some of Singer's machine inventories, spares, and other assets, Mr Cross said. These three categories accounted for 36 per cent of the net assets (other items comprised accounts receivable,

Computer news

50 per cent; rental machines, 25 per cent; and liabilities 11 per cent).

On April 1, ICL will make a down payment of \$2m (about £1,040m) towards the eventual purchase price. By the end of September the British company will decide how much of the inventories, spares and other assets it wishes to acquire; and within one month will pay a second instalment to take the sum paid up to 15 per cent of the total purchase price. The formulae for calculating the price are already established; the exact figures depend on how much is taken over.

The remainder of the purchase price will be paid in three further instalments in October 1976, 1977 and 1978.

No decision has yet been made on future product strategy. This is one of four subjects which are to be examined by special committees who will report to Mr Doug Comish, who

has just been appointed ICL director of small business systems.

Mr Comish will be responsible for managing the Singer business machines operation, and for preparing its integration into ICL. The other three committees will look into product manufacturing (Singer are committed to continue manufacture until June 1977); customer engineering; and specially important accounts, such as the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT).

In parallel, Mr Cross and Mr Hudson will be reviewing Singer operations at each location. The international business which ICL is acquiring is in 15 countries in Europe and in Australia, South Africa, Mexico and Brazil; plus 18 dealerships in other countries.

Singer machines on rental on October 1, Mr Cross said, are being transferred to ICL at no charge.

The deal would give Singer users security for the future, Mr Hudson said, plus a product line of larger computers for those who needed to move upwards.

For ICL, Mr Cross said, the deal would be practical even if no Singer customer moved across to ICL equipment. "But obviously we expect to take a lot of them," he added.

In another announcement yesterday, ICL and Control Data Ltd, the United Kingdom subsidiary of Control Data Corporation of the United States, said the two companies had agreed in principle to form a joint company in the business products field.

The new company, to be known as Control Datasys, will "manufacture, procure and market computer media and computerables direct to computer users."

The business products operations of Control Data in the United Kingdom, together with those of Datasys, the existing ICL subsidiary, will be transferred to the new company.

Chief executive of Control Datasys will be Mr Michael S. McLagoo of Control Data.

The agreement excludes the Control Data factory at Brynmawr in south Wales.

Kenneth Owen

Rolls-Royce Motors dedicated to increasing Britain's wealth.

Rolls-Royce Motors represents a social contract between the 22,000 shareholder proprietors and the 9,400 employees... who, by their combined efforts have enabled the Company to continue profitable expansion during a year of worldwide recession.

* The current year has opened well for our car business. Other products are somewhat subdued but further ahead prospects look bright.

* The Board is pushing ahead with a major investment programme.

* The profitable progress of the Company has continued in 1975 with turnover up by 37% and profit by 17%.

* Motor car output exceeded 3,000 units for the first time. 59% of the cars built were exported and earned over £22 million, an increase in export earnings of 50% over 1974.

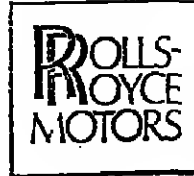
* Unit production of diesel engines increased by 13%. Direct exports increased by 60% in 1975 and earned, with spares, £7 million.

* In total the Company exported goods to the value of £33 million. The increasing success of the Company in export markets can be seen from the table below:

Year	Direct export of cars and diesel engines	Percentage of group turnover
1971	£10.8m	28%
1972	£12.6m	29%
1973	£16.8m	35%
1974	£22.0m	37%
1975	£33.1m	42%

Last year showed an increase of more than 50% in direct exports over the previous year. It should be noted that the total import content of a Rolls-Royce car which may be sold overseas at prices ranging from £17,000 to £34,000 is only £1,000.

* The Board recognizes with gratitude the hard work and loyalty of all employees and the confidence shown by the shareholders.



The Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 1975 will be available from 29th March 1976 and copies may be obtained by request to The Secretary, Rolls-Royce Motors Holdings Limited, Pym's Lane, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 3FL.



Preliminary Announcement

The consolidated trading results (subject to final audit) of Rolls-Royce Motors Holdings Limited and its subsidiary companies for the year ended 31st December 1975 are shown below:

	1975	1974
	£000	£000
Turnover (Note 1)	79,669	58,391
Trading profit	6,267	5,434
Loan stock interest	479	480
Profit before taxation	5,788	4,954
Taxation - United Kingdom (Note 2)	2,107	2,007
Foreign	578	378
Profit after taxation	3,103	2,569
Extraordinary items	-	323
Profit after extraordinary items	3,103	2,246
Minority interest	26	10
Dividends	3,077	2,236
Interim paid - 1.5p per share (1974 1.5p)	630	540
Final (recommended) - 2p per share (1974 2p)	841	720
Retained profit	1,606	976
Earnings per share (Note 3)		
basic	7.54p	6.81p
fully diluted	6.89p	-

NOTES

1. Direct exports
Direct exports from the United Kingdom amounted to £33,083,000. (1974 £22,014,000).

2. Taxation
It has been the Company's contention that the accumulated tax losses of Rolls-Royce Limited at 18th June 1971 are available to Rolls-Royce Motors Limited under the provisions of Section 262 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970. Following the rejection of the Company's claim by the Special Commissioners a case was heard in the High Court in February 1976 and judgment

given rejecting the claim. In the light of this judgment leading counsel has advised the Company not to pursue its appeal any further. Provision for taxation was made in the Company's Accounts in 1975 on the basis that the claim would not succeed and in consequence no underprovision for taxation arises by reason of the claim being rejected in the High Court.

3. Earnings per share
The earnings per share reflect the increased share capital following the Rights Issue in May 1975 calculated in accordance with the Statement of Standard Accounting Practice No. 3.

Subject to approval by the Company at the Annual General Meeting a final dividend of two pence per share will be paid on 7th May 1976 to the holders of the existing ordinary shares recorded in the register at the close of business on 22nd March 1976.

مركز الأمل

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Slower tempo at Rolls-Royce Motors

Half-yearly comparisons do not tell the whole story of last year's trading pattern at Rolls-Royce Motors. The 26 per cent first half gain in 1975 to £22.6m compares with a previous half heavily depressed by component shortages and the capital reconstruction; whereas the apparently quieter second half profit of only 12 per cent, based on £13.6m, was achieved against the much more buoyant trading conditions in the second half of 1974.

That said, there is no getting away from the fact that the tempo at R-R started to slow after the first half. Although 60 per cent of car output goes to export, where there are no problems of price controls, pre-tax profits were down 12 per cent on 1974, and overall trading margins slipped from 9.3 to 7.9 per cent. Points to note, however, are the resistance over overvalued selling prices, with the operation of the Price Code in the United Kingdom sharing some of the responsibility for this.

Thanks mainly to the switch away from commercial vehicles to the industrial engine market, the diesel division managed to push up pre-interest profits from £1.5m to £2.4m.

Most disappointing, though, has been the aero engine side, where demand has been tied to the RB211 contract—has been weak.

Current-year trading has already taken a knock with demand for diesel engines sharply down and aero components a fifth of pre-interest profits last year. As facing a healthy dull time, Cars will, therefore, have to take up the slack where the comfort is in shortening order books rather than lower production rates up any slackening of demand.

Despite last year's £2m rights issue, higher working capital requirements are reflected in interest charges of £2.2m. Nevertheless the company is pressing ahead with its expansion programme which is likely to lead to a further capital injection at some stage. Now that the group has also lost its claim to use the accumulated losses of the old Rolls-Royce company, there will, of course, be no winding-up of the company, but the modest growth prospects, if its main attraction lies in the field of 7.9 per cent at 68p.

Final 1975 (1974)
Capitalization £2m
Sales £79.7m (£58.4m)
Pre-tax profits £5.2m (£4.95m)
Earnings per share 7.54p (6.81p)
Dividend gross 5.38p (5.22p)

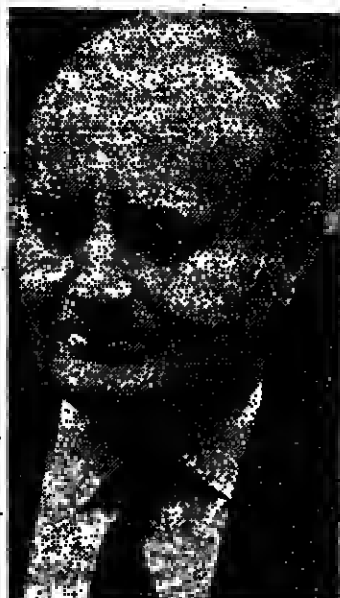
Oil
BP relative to Shell

As the weaker recovery trend at BP appeared to show in the final quarter of 1975 relative to Royal Dutch/Shell a misleading indicator for 1976? Arguably it was if one accepts that the incipient recovery from the recession will have the secondary effect upon demand for crude oil and oil products.

Both the strong recovery in demand for chemicals towards the end of 1975 and the consequent rise in the price of petrochemicals provided a boost to Shell.

However, the recovery in chemical demand presages a more widespread industrial revival, and in 1976, recovery should be concentrated increasingly on low margin, heavy products. So argues W. Greenwell, a new oil commentary published today and the broker's view on to suggest that BP, with its greater concentration on heavy products, "should be able to see a disproportionate profit recovery."

Both groups will benefit from the restoration of chemical profits in 1976 to perhaps around the 1974 level. In BP's case this would mean a recovery to around £5m against perhaps £2m last year and in Shell's a



Mr. Ian Fraser, chairman of Rolls-Royce Motors: selling more overseas.

restoration to around £155m against about £60m.

The brokers are looking for an overall improvement of 64 per cent in BP's earnings in 1976 to 78.3p a share, on a nil profit basis, while those of "Shell" T & I are predicted to rise by a fifth to 84.3p. BP's "price relative" has historically moved in line with earnings and thus the shares can be expected to show strength in relation to the market and to "Shell".

Greenwell admits, however, that the ex-Burmah stake, overhanging the market may continue to dampen the BP price for a while. Last night BP was down a further 14p to 57.3p while "Shell" T & I was up lower at 40p.

Solicitors' Law
Growth record intact

The Solicitors' Law Stationery Society still labours under the image of a purely legal stationery business. But the group's spread into general commercial and security printing, specialist publishing, office machinery, computing services and conference management have given it a degree of insulation against the stagnation of its traditional markets which is reflected in a nine-year growth of earnings and turnover.

In keeping that record the group produced pre-tax profits of 6 per cent up to £13.4m in 1975, a turnover ahead by 25 per cent at £14.3m.

Price increases during 1975, averaging out at around 14 per cent, accounted for just over half of the increased trading turnover. The balance has been made up from an increase in the rate of sales to traditional stationery markets—as buyers take up stock again after substantial stock accumulation following the sharp rise in the paper price in 1973/74—and a diversification of products within existing marketing areas, including the introduction of a new plain-paper copier and an expansion of the range of general, commercial office services.

The group's expanding European operations, based on acquisitions of printing and marketing bases covering France, Germany, Belgium and Holland, have yet to make a significant contribution to group profits. But joint publications with an American publishing house, aimed at the burgeoning BEC businessmen's market are expected to start taking the side of the business into the black within the next few years.

At home, Solicitors' Law's penetration of the accountancy and general business markets continues to grow. And the group reports "comparable" growth in the first quarter of the current year, implying a further year's steady increase in earnings.

The shares, trading in a

relatively narrow market—more than 53 per cent of the equity are held by the Thomson Organisation or Thomson Family Interests and a further 25 per cent, originally held by companies within the Shaw Walker Group, have been placed with institutions—rose 3p to 56p on the results.

At that level they stand on an historic p/e of 9.8 and yield 9.5 per cent. 1975's full year's dividend having been raised to 5.33p gross per share. The dividend yield argues in favour of an improved rating for the group, which has proved itself a strong and typical counter in what has traditionally been a highly cyclical business.

Final 1975 (1974)
Capitalization £5m
Sales £14.3m (£11.4m)
Pre-tax profits £13.4m (£12.6m)
Earnings per share 5.72p (5.63p)
Dividend gross 5.33p (4.93p)

Low & Bonar
Further losses from Flotex

The Achilles heel of Low & Bonar, the packaging textiles and engineering group, continues to be the Flotex division, which despite the brave words from the chairman last year, has turned in yet another loss. Indeed, it has been a constant drain on resources since started in 1971.

After initial pushing production problems the company ran into technical problems. With everything apparently sorted out, the company was able to postulate a break even for 1975; and indeed the division was ahead of budget by the half year, although losses were still being made.

However, market conditions changed and a new product was introduced which appeared to put the division back to square one by creating appalling production problems with the result that the losses ended up at the 1974 level of £689,000.

After five years of disappointments, Low & Bonar now seems ready to take the bull by the horns. "Vigorous action" is being taken and shareholders are promised further information at the AGM. Many observers hope this will take the form of the company finally cutting its losses and shutting down the division.

Meanwhile, the near 21 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to £5.3m was not unexpected, although the market cut the share price by 2p to 153p, with the packaging business and Canada still very much in the doldrums.

There has, in fact, been a dramatic swing in the profits mix with engineering particularly pulling in much of the slack created by the packaging downturn, which has more than halved its contribution. Having slumped in 1974, the engineering side last year bounced back to contribute nearly 30 per cent of pre-tax profits, compared with just over eight per cent. Part of this revival was due to a concentration on exports with poor prospects for transformers on the home market, but the African market provided the real impetus.

Textiles, mainly in the form of tents and tarpaulins, also appreciably increased their contributions to profits, again partly on the back of African demand.

But it is just these sectors, with their reliance on Africa—Zambia, South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya—which are subject to major uncertainties.

The rating is relatively low with the shares yielding 8.9 per cent and selling on 6.5 times earnings, but it is unlikely to improve until the remedies for the Flotex division and plans to lessen dependence on Africa are outlined.

Final 1974-75 (1973-74)
Capitalization £12.49m
Sales £69.27m (£58.11m)
Pre-tax profits £5.3m (£5.76m)
Earnings per share 13.62p (13.03p)
Dividend gross 13.62p (12.66p)

The next generation of nuclear power plants takes shape on the drawing board

Roger Vielvoye, Energy Correspondent, charts the painstaking progress being made by the designers of Britain's first steam generating heavy water reactor power station

A network of concrete roads and site works put down in preparation for the construction of an advanced gas cooled reactor (AGCR) at Sizewell, Suffolk, which was subsequently abandoned are to be brought back into use to serve Britain's most expensive industrial project, the first of the nuclear power stations using the steam generating heavy water reactor (SGHWR) system.

Since Mr Eric Varley announced in 1974, when Secretary of State for Energy, that the all-British heavy water system was to succeed the troubled AGCR and form the new generation of power stations to be built by the re-organized United Kingdom nuclear industry, the SGHWR has disappeared from public gaze into a maze of consultative and design conferences.

The long silence has been interpreted in some quarters as a sign that all is not well with the SGHWR and that the work of turning a 100 megawatt prototype into a commercial-sized reactor has run into insuperable difficulties.

Not so says Dr Ned Franklin who, as head of the Nuclear Power Company, is the man with the unenviable task of producing the latest generation of nuclear reactors. He admits that the work so far has been slow and often painful, but he is quite emphatic—the SGHWR will be a success.

Scaling up, as the nuclear industry knows it, its cost is not very easy. Added to this is a policy decision taken by NPC and its two customers, the CEBG for Sizewell and the South of Scotland Electricity Board for a similar station at Stranraer, to spend more time on the design stage to prevent expensive and time-consuming changes during the construction work.

Design work, after a slow start, is now beginning to gather momentum. By the time it is many months before there is any visible progress in the form of site activity. Before

this can happen, contracts have to be placed and one of the great unmentionables of the development programme, the cost of the project, will be out in the open.

So far the only official estimate of the cost of building a 2,640MW station at Sizewell has come from Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn, the Secretary of State for Energy. In a parliamentary answer earlier this year he said cost estimates were difficult to predict at this stage "but the indications are that the capital cost might be in the order of £2,000m."

At this staggering rate the Sizewell plant would be more expensive than the combined cost of the four AGR stations for the CEBG, the most expensive of which is the ill-fated Dungeness B at an estimated total cost of £280m. Admittedly this compares with an original cost estimate in 1965 of £89m.

The most expensive conventional project on the CEBG's books is the 3,300 megawatt oil-fired station under construction at the Isle of Grain, Kent, and scheduled for completion in 1979. The CEBG estimates it will cost £375m—£45m more than the 2,000MW Littlebrook D oil station in Kent scheduled for completion in 1980.

Costs are something Dr Franklin and Mr Bob Peddie, the CEBG's board member responsible for nuclear development, are not anxious to talk about. Both men supported the rival American PWR sys-

tem during the debate over nuclear policy in 1974. Both have now developed the zeal, if not of converts, at least of men who can never be accused of allowing their past performances to stand in the way of the new system.

There are many reasons why the SGHWR appeared to disappear into limbo after the 1974 decision. Long and involved discussions were necessary between the two customers about their design preferences. The team, mainly from the former Nuclear Power Group (NPG) which had already produced an outlined design for an SGHWR for the SSEB in the early 1970s, had to be re-grouped.

Most of the design work is being undertaken from Booths Hall, a spacious country residence set in parkland near Knutsford, Cheshire. Consultation about the design is a continuous affair. Both sides have been at pains to point out that additional time spent at the design stage can save years during construction by eliminating the need for changes in the design.

Target dates for work are frowned upon. The philosophy is to get the design work right and the depressed state of the electricity industry has helped them in this objective.

But positive progress is being seen for the first time. Recently, Mr Peddie and his counterpart as nuclear overlord at the SSEB received the first of the official documents that

mark progress towards the final contract design.

NPC delivered what are known as the reactor design parameters. These state the specific values of key parameters and materials from which the engineers will create the outline design. It is a highly technical document dealing with such things as the fuel rating, reactor pressure, reactor circuit materials and the "witness" of the steam coming out of the reactor.

This will be followed in about six months by the outline design, in which the shape of the reactor begins to emerge. It will contain drawings and schedules displaying all the main and support plant and the physical juxtaposition so that a provisional engineering, operational and safety appraisal of the feasibility of the design can be assessed. The final contract design will not emerge until next year and takes the outline proposals to the stage where an order can be placed.

Throughout these stages the NPC and the two customers have to prepare a series of safety reports to the nuclear inspectors.

Despite the lack of targets there is no disguising the fact that turning the 100 MW prototype design into a commercially sized 600 MW reactor is no where near as uncomplicated as claimed by some supporters of the system.

It is acknowledged that the most difficult part of the scaling-up operation is now being

tackled, and concerns the pressure system. Each reactor will have two steam drums. The SGHWR has a core consisting of a bank of pressure tubes which pass through vertical tubes forming part of an aluminium alloy tank or calandria, containing heavy water.

Nuclear fuel is placed in the pressure tubes. Light water is circulated and boils as it passes over the fuel. Steam produced in this way is separated from the light water in two large steam drums which, in the Winfrith prototype, are positioned above and either side of the core.

In the prototype there are 104 tubes carrying boiling water and in the commercial sized unit there would be 300 per drum, although they could be consolidated into 40 headers each of which has to be welded into the drum, and each is a potential point of failure. While the drums do not present the same hazard as pressure vessels containing nuclear fuel, the safety experts will want to know the effects of flying metal particles from any failure on more sensitive parts of the reactor.

If there were safety doubts over the integrity of the pressure vessel for American technology which have few welded parts, how can the large number of welded joints into the SGHWR steam drums have escaped criticism during the debate, ask the unrepentant supporters of United States technology.

In reality the critics do not doubt that the steam drums can with careful design and skillful engineering pass the rigorous standards. Given time the same skills could have got the PWR through the inspectorate, they also argue.

Time is something that is needed to get the SGHWR's target. The "get it right" philosophy cannot be rushed and the slump in demand for electricity has given the designers the breathing space they need.

Putting a price on industrial disputes

Council. Their method is to find out from the people concerned as well as statistics, exactly what happens. It may be asked whether the subject is not of sufficient importance to justify continuing work by more than two men.

The General Inquiry, the first results of which were published last year, began with work on strikers' incomes during the Post Office dispute of 1971 and the maintenance electricians' dispute at Chrysler's Coventry plants in 1973. One object was to see how far what have been called "state subsidies"—supplementary benefits and income tax rebates—enabled strikers' households to maintain their living standards and therefore influenced their willingness to accept a stoppage. It was found that household incomes fell by an average of 25 per cent among the postal workers and 20 per cent among the electricians, in spite of the spreading of savings and the cushioning of a long strike.

When the inquiry went on to examine the net cost to a striker's household, information about such things as savings and debts was not necessary. The comparatively simple sum was to deduct from net earnings those payments which would not have been received if it had not been for the strike, including some made after it was over, for instance tax rebates to the postal workers, which could not be paid before because the staff who worked for them were themselves on strike, and lump sums paid by Chrysler to compensate for certain kinds of lost income.

The main elements in those net costs were tax rebates, supplementary benefits and the cost of the strike itself. In the case of Chrysler, payments by the company, if regular statistics about the costs of disputes were published, would help government and employers to decide whether to firm or make concessions, and would correspondingly help unions and workers to make an informed judgment. Money is not all that is involved, but it is important.

Two men at the London School of Economics, John Gennard, a lecturer in industrial relations, and Roger Lasko, a research officer, have been engaged on relevant empirical work for about three years, initially financed by the research and planning division of the DE and subsequently, until the end of September next year, by the Social Science Research

information on these effects could be obtained from the company and trade unions as well as the government department concerned, providing they were willing to cooperate. Gains from post-strike overtime also needs to be evaluated if possible.

Other surveys identified by the survey were new income resulting from the wife's getting a job, casual work by the striker, and gifts. These would be more difficult to find out but together they added up to only about 4 per cent of the total cost in both strikes, whereas the effects altogether added up to 37 per cent in the case of the Post Office and 45 per cent in the case of Chrysler. Most strikes, of course, are too short for pecuniary effects to be appreciable.

Gennard and his colleagues are now trying to arrange a survey of a stoppage by white collar workers and of one by manual workers with previous experience of a long strike, which neither the postal employees nor the Chrysler electricians had. From there they would like to go on to study the cost of strikes to unions and to companies.

The cost to unions is presumably mainly but not entirely in dispute benefit. In the Post Office stoppage there was no strike pay and limited hardship pay. The Chrysler electricians, on the other hand, received such high dispute pay that few were eligible for supplementary benefit.

An examination of the cost to companies, if they would cooperate, would be in some respects the most interesting. Manufacturers, particularly in the motor industry, are struck to produce massive figures of losses, based on retail prices, on the assumption that without a strike there would have been

maximum output, all of which is lost for good. But production might have been interrupted by other causes, and in any case the firm might not have been working to capacity.

The company saves its wages bill and some overheads and does not necessarily lose orders. When trade is had it may be an advantage to have a stoppage. In any case the firm can make up much of what has been lost through overtime, if desired. But when it is working all-out to meet urgent delivery dates, an interruption can be severely damaging. And obviously damage to industry is damage to the economy.

The immediate pecuniary effects of a strike do not necessarily show whether it has been worthwhile to either side. It is possible to measure the difference between an employer's last pay offer and the post-strike settlement to see how long it takes to recoup the workers' losses, but there are less tangible gains and losses.

The workers concerned may be able to improve permanently

their relative position in the pay structure. Determined action, even if not wholly successful, may make employers think twice about resisting a later claim. Not all stoppages are over money, but to establish which is the right to recognition, may pay off in the long run.

On the other hand a long strike may make workers less ready to test their powers again. Employers have much to lose if they give way to a claim which starts other leap-frogging demands. The nuclear industry is hardly susceptible of measurement, but to know the immediate cost, whether to workers or employers, at least removes one unknown from the complex equation.

Fewer working days were lost through strikes last year than in any since 1963, but the figure of nearly six million was nevertheless more than three times the average for the 20 years from 1933 to 1952. The subject compels to deserve study.

Eric Wigham

Business Diary: Purse strings • Wings over Whitehall

Robert Perrin, director of the economic studies division of PA Management Consultants is very much into islands at the moment.

Perrin delivered his second year economic review of the Isle of Man to the Tynwald (Manx Parliament) in December, and is now at work on a further study. This time into the Common Purse, an old government under which the Manx charge the same customs and excise duty on such things as tobacco and drink. With elections coming up in the Isle of Man it is to be expected a lowering of even higher duty would be offset by gains from increased tourism.

Tourist interests, of course, are among those who favour a change, although it is by no means clear that PA will advise that there should be one.

Even if there were an economic case, Whitehall might not wear it, and as it is Whitehall who will say how the proceeds of any oil or gas goodies from the Irish Sea are to be shared, the calculation is as much political as economic.

Under the Common Purse arrangement, the Isle of Man is accorded a share of the United Kingdom's total customs and VAT haul.

While it would be all very nice to smoke and drink more cheaply—as in Jersey—the Common Purse is the highest source of the island's income.

The thought that the chairmanships of the two state aviation concerns also come up for renewal this year is just down on the mantelpiece in Whitehall whose job it is to order such things.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter and Nigel Foulkes were appointed respectively chairmen of the Civil Aviation Authority and British Airports 1972 for five years beginning that anniversary. The latter, that announcement came about their continuation—or successors—can be expected by the autumn.



"The market seems to suggest a slight lead for Callaghan with just an awkward hint of some support for Foot."



Hollowood

former Tory MP, had the difficult task of setting up the CAA and has made a success of it, although running into turbulence recently for his raising of aviation charges in an effort to meet his brief from the Government to try to break even financially.

But he is now 68, and it seems most unlikely that he will carry on for a further term. Our guess is that his successor will not be Freddy Laker.

Foulkes, a director of the Charterhouse Group, had a fear-some task in taking over from the ebullient Sir Peter Masefield at the airports authority, but in a quiet way his record has also been meritorious.

TUC call
The way things are going, there won't be any room for your actual born-again sons of toil in the TUC; there'll be too many sharp-suited managers around the place.

to get the Institution of Professional Civil Servants—salaries of up to £10,000 a year—into affiliation with congress, the first signs of a similar move inside the British Association of Colliery Management have begun to appear.

This month's issue of BACM's Newsletter reprints an article by John Lyons, general secretary of the Electrical Power Engineers Association, the power station managers' "management union" which comes down strongly in favour of belonging to the TUC, which he describes as "the single most influential force in this country."

The article first appeared in State Service, the IPCS journal. Lyons, whose EPEA is TUC-affiliated, is a former IPCS official. There is speculation that the article could not have been reprinted in the BACM magazine unless general secretary George Tyler was sympathetic to its argument.

BACM's national research officer, J. D. Meads, says in a preamble to the reprint, that the association has previously debated affiliation to congress but has always decided against it.

have prompted a reconsideration of traditional attitudes."

Bright spark
London-born Michael Allen appears to be making some headway with the American "heavy" General Electric Company, USA (no relation of our own GEC).

Allen, who is not yet 40, has been elected a vice-president of GE(USA), and staff executive, corporate strategy and systems. He joined the group four years ago after working in London and New York for management consultants McKinsey and Company.



GEC(USA)'s Allen.

Staffordshire Potteries (Holdings) Limited

INTERIM STATEMENT ON THE GROUP PROFIT FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1975

	UNAUDITED Six months ended 31st Dec 1975	UNAUDITED Six months ended 31st Dec 1974	UNAUDITED Six months ended 31st Dec 1973
Group Turnover	3,421	2,816	8,183
Trading Profit of the Group	269	190	817
Interest	54	50	104
Net Profit Before Tax	215	140	513
Taxation	112	73	257
Net Profit After Tax	103	67	256
Extraordinary Items	—	—	23
Minority Interests	103	67	279
Profit Attributable to Holding Company	78	47	258
Dividend:			
Interim	25	22	22
Final	—	—	27
To Reserves	53	25	230
Interim Dividend per share (net) 2.5p	2.1875p	2.1875p	2.1875p
Final Dividend per share (net)	—	—	2.73925p
Basic Earnings per share	7.88p	4.79p	23.8p
Fully Diluted Earnings	5.91p	4.46p	20.1p

"Due to the exercising of the right to convert Loan Stock into Ordinary shares, the following shares have been issued:

December, 1973 5,768 Ordinary shares
December, 1974 393 Ordinary shares
December, 1975 123 Ordinary shares

Group turnover for the first six months of the current financial year has increased by 31% compared with the corresponding period of last year and unaudited pre-tax profits have risen by £75,000. By controlling costs and increasing sales your company has maintained its progress under extremely difficult economic conditions. Your Board anticipates a satisfactory outcome to the year's trading and have increased the interim dividend to 2.5p per share.

The dividend will be payable to the shareholders on the register on the close of business on the 1st June, 1976 and the dividend will be paid on the 1st July, 1976.



BELL'S

SCOTCH WHISKY

"Afore ye go"

Stock Exchange Prices

Leaders drift

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Mar. 22. Dealings End, Apr. 2. Contango Day, Apr. 3. Settlement Day, Apr. 13.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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1975-76 High Low Stock				1975-76 High Low Stock				1975-76 High Low Stock				1975-76 High Low Stock			
Price	Div	Yld	P/E	Price	Div	Yld	P/E	Price	Div	Yld	P/E	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
BRITISH FUNDS															
200	100	100	100	200	100	100	100	200	100	100	100	200	100	100	100
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COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN															
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DOLLAR STOCKS															
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BANKS AND DISCOUNTS															
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INVESTMENT TRUSTS															
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PROPERTY															
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RUBBER															
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3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1
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